SELECT REVIEWS.

FOR JUNE, 1809.

ORIGINAL.

[FOR THE SELECT REVIEWS.]

Voyage en Pologne et en Allemagne fait en 1793, par un Livonien, &c. 2 vols. 8vo. 1808.

Travels through Poland and Germany, by a Livonian.

THE republick or kingdom of Poland is no more. A series of revolutions which took place within the last forty years, has terminated in the total destruction of a state formerly much renowned in the annals of civil, military, and political glory. In the present state of affairs, details concerning the ancient constitution of this kingdom, its senate, its diet, and its king, can be considered only as contributions to the history of past times, and would scarcely furnish our American readers with any considerable share of interest. But the picture of men and manners will never cease to engage a reasonable curiosity; and happily the present work contains, in this respect, a number of very valuable observations. We shall first select a very lively description of the manner of living of one of the most illustrious families of Warsaw, which will give a pretty adequate idea of high life in general in that country.

This family, says our author, is composed of five persons, viz. the prince, the princess his spouse, two sons, and one daughter. The place of their residence is not fixed, and they never live two years together in the same place. Wherever they fix their abode, a regular court is paid to them by the numerous officers appointed for the administration of the finances of the house. This court is increased by all those whom the family patronizes in a political respect, and by a number of courteous neighbours. An open table, theatrical performances, and rural festivals, form the constant amusements and almost the only occupations of the company. When the family is on a journey, they carry along with them all the persons they stand in need of, such as tutors for their children, chaplains, valets, musicians, physicians, secretaries, and servants. All these people attend in carriages. Wagons follow loaded with wardrobe, wine, kitchen utensils, and beds. The whole forms a long procession of carriages and horses led by drivers, equerries, grooms, &c. Most of the publick taverns in Poland being very miserable, the travelling party is provided with tents, which are pitched wherever they choose to repose. It might be said, that such a camp is like those of the ancient patriarchs. When the journey takes place to a foreign country, the attendants are not equally numerous; nevertheless, they seldom employ less than three or four carriages drawn by six horses each. If they wish to make any considerable stay in a large city, an entire hotel is hired, and the family is established there completely. There they give dinners, suppers, balls, and card parties. They frequent the best company and admit parasites of every description. It happens often that the princess finds more pleasure in a city than her husband. In

that case *she* remains with her court, whilst *he* proceeds further with his own. Thus *she* stays at Vienna and *he* at Rome. On his return to Poland he will meet her, perhaps, at Pisa going to Naples. In this manner the family is often scattered over all Europe; its ducats circulate every where, and years elapse before they find themselves united again in Warsaw. Each keeps a separate apartment and separate attendants. These adhere so strictly to their particular business that often the master or mistress of the house find nobody to execute their orders, whilst there are a dozen servants in the house. A stranger having business with the master addresses by chance one of the servants of madame. He scarcely receives an answer. At the utmost he is directed to the room of the master's servants. There you may find often ten persons waiting an eleventh one to announce them. The prince gets up sooner or later according to the hour at which the supper or the ball of the last evening was finished. The large door of the palace remains shut until the prince gives admittance; but the small side door is sooner open. By this the trusty confidants, the clients, the officers of the family, the creditors, the solicitors, the scholars, and the artists glide in, whenever they have any thing to ask from the prince. The servants are accustomed to receive them with a *pan śpie*, that is: *the master is asleep.* Others who are acquainted with the place, visit one of the secretaries or of the pages, explain their business, under the protection of a present, or give to understand that they will not be ungrateful if they are introduced by a private door. The prince is found in his bed or sitting before the chimney in his dressing gown, either alone or surrounded by his clients, solicitors and other people, who pay him their court. When there is no diet the prince spends the forenoon either in riding on horseback out of town, or he goes on foot to visit his acquaintances, or else glides into the suburb of Cracovia to see a young person, whom he entertains regularly or whom he visits only through accident. Meanwhile the apartment of madame begins to stir. As she did not get to bed till after midnight, she does not rise till between ten and eleven o'clock. She finds near her bed two or three ladies of her friends, who chatter with her about the company of last evening, and who listen to her own observations. They will plan some amusement for the day. For fear of missing a *rendezvous* in the *garden of Saxony*, the princess puts on, in haste, an elegant morning dress, and covers her head with a muslin handkerchief of dazzling white, which conceals every part of her face except two sparkling eyes. Another time she rings the bell for the breakfast and gives orders to let in the people who are waiting in her antichamber. These are tradesmen of both sexes and of every description, who bring in new wares and old accounts, painters, genealogists, virtuosos from abroad, who come to invite her to a concert, hairdressers just arrived from Paris, dentists, and other people of the same kind. They enter all in a crowd, together with lords decorated with crosses and badges, who are not ashamed to flatter the wife in order to get the more surely at the husband. Whilst all this is going on in the apartments of the prince and the princess, the children remain not inactive. Masters of languages, of dancing, of musick, and of drawing have arrived in the room of the daughter; they have given their lessons or have been sent back, because the princess had a headach, or because she wished to embroider. In the chamber of the sons you hear a confused noise of violins, of whistling flutes, and of clashing foils, intermixed with voices chaunting Polish songs and the huzzas of half a dozen young people chasing one another, fighting one against the other, and throwing topsy turvy chairs and tables. In the midst of this tumult you may distinguish the voices of the drawing and fencing masters, and that of the tutor, alternately entreating, threatening, swearing, but almost constantly accompanied with shouts of laughter. In the yard some Tartar horses, on which the princes, their companions, and their equerries intend to take a ride, stamp and beat the pavement, and by their gambols tire the hoarse voices and the whips of the grooms. At last the blustering company run down stairs; leap upon the horses; rush out from the gate, and tranquillity is finally restored in the palace.

There is certainly a great deal of variety in this picture. It would not be unworthy of the pencil of a Teniers or of a Vateau. The description of Poland fills the first volume of the work, and the first pages of the second. After this the author sets out for Dresden. He visits Berlin, Munich, Salzburgh, Vienna, and arrives at last at Balsamo where his journey ends. The following is a faithful representation of the manners, and especially of the economical habits of the inhabitants of Dresden.

It is difficult to discern, that Dresden is the residence of ministers, of generals, of officers of superiour rank, and of wealthy citizens. Nevertheless, the number of all these persons is very considerable. You will not see in this place that number of magnificent carriages, that numerous retinue of servants, those sumptuous tables, those brilliant assemblies, those splendid repasts, nor those pleasure parties, things so frequent in other chief cities. In compensation for this you will not hear in this city of men famous for their debts, nor of merchants and mechanicks cheated and ruined by fashionable debtors. Many of the officers in the service of the state, who in other small residences cannot commonly do without horses and carriages, walk here on foot, and use, on days of ceremony, a modest sedan chair. How should it happen, that a counsellor should think himself obliged to incur expenses of this kind, when he sees the ministers themselves dressed very plainly and going on foot? There is, I believe, not one instance of a merchant keeping horses and a carriage. Two or three bankers only keep equipages. All other persons of this class keep at the utmost a gig or a carriage drawn by one single horse [une demi fortune] and a small country seat in a neighbouring village, where they spend some time in the summer season. It must not be imagined that this economy degenerates into avarice. On proper occasions they show themselves in a manner suitable to their fortune. They are equally removed from the profusion of Warsaw and from the Spanish pageantry that reigns in Vienna. They will display in exquisite dishes and in delicious wines every thing a delicate palate may wish for. At the same time you will be treated with a conversation more agreeable, more witty, and more various than in either residence before mentioned. The fashionable people of both sexes are there better informed and possessed of more wit than in many other residences of Germany.

We shall not follow our author to Nuremberg, to Berlin, to Munich, nor even to Vienna, although there are interesting details enough in the description he gives of these different cities; but if we except some slight shades, the physiognomies are there nearly the same. In Nuremberg the fine arts are a little more cultivated; in Berlin the higher classes of society are more austere; in Munich more affable and more hospitable; in Vienna more solemn and more cold. Such is the general result of his observations, and the writer of this article can bear testimony, that this result is in general correct. We shall conclude this article with the account our author gives of the saltworks of Salzburgh, situated near the small town of Hallein, where they purify the salt extracted from a neighbouring mountain called Durremberg.

I had procured at Salzburgh a permission for visiting the mines. On my arrival at Hallein, I sent it to the officer of the administration, in order to inform him of my design. As I was assured that more than two hours would pass before I could get an answer, I ordered my dinner to be served, after which I took the way of the mine. People go there commonly on horseback or in sledges, but these two modes equally displeased me. I preferred walking. I found the road neither too long nor too rough, and the diversity of the prospects, which change every moment, rendered the walk very agreeable. After you have ascended a mountain for nearly one hour, you discover before you a small village with a neat church built of pale red marble, which is highly ornamental to the landscape.

About two hundred paces further you reach the end of your journey, and arrive at a tavern where the director of the mine awaits the curious visiters with the costume necessary to undertake the subterraneous excursion. When entering I perceived a being of a singular form, dressed in white, which suddenly disappeared. The director having conducted me to a closet, told me, that a company was to visit the mine with me. He displayed the bundle of garments necessary for the purpose, and now I guessed immediately what the kind of phantom was, that had struck my eyes at the moment of entering. He explained to me the rest. It was a young woman, who had come from a neighbouring town with her brother and her elder sister. The attire consists of a white great coat, breeches of the same colour, long, white cotton stockings, large shoes with thick soals, a leathern apron, and finally, a cap for the protection of the head. The breeches, the great coat, and the stockings are wide enough to be put on over every other dress. The good humour which these preparations excited in us, was the cause, that from the first instant we were toge-

ther like old acquaintances. We entered the mine under the guidance of the director. The soil is clayey and of unequal hardness. As we proceeded, we had the pleasure of enjoying the admirable effect produced by the torches which each of us held in his hand. Their light was reflected by the water and the vault of the gallery covered with crystalized salt. The numerous facets of the mineral decomposed the rays of light, and produced a variety of admirable colours. The director had made some arrangements to render our excursion more amusing, by placing at proper distances miners engaged in some particular kind of work. One continued to dig the gallery; another was employed in carrying the earth out of the mine; a third was repairing the canal where the briny water flows along. On a sudden the director stopt on the brink of a deep abyss, where our eye could penetrate only to the depth of a few feet. "We must descend to the bottom of this abyss," said the director. Our ladies, alarmed at the proposition, inquired whether there was no other way to be pursued. Without paying any attention to their anxiety he answered coolly, it was the only one. At the same time he spread his apron upon two parallel beams with a smooth surface and extending into the abyss in an oblique direction. All along the beams a rope was fastened to take hold of during the descent. Having seated himself on his apron, he requested a gentleman of our company to do the same behind him, to have afterwards a lady seated in the same manner, and so alternately with the others. In the twinkling of an eye we glided with him to the bottom of the abyss. We had already alighted before our fair companions had yet completely fetched the sigh which their fears had excited. They give this expeditious mode of descending the name of rolling. The ingenious mind of the director had reserved until the last moment the most beautiful prospect. He led us, as it seemed, to the entry of a new gallery We plunged into it, and on a sudden a dark vault was open before us, whose spacious extent could be discovered by the light of our torches. At the first sight it presented the image of a dark sky, where a few stars sparkled at a distance. As soon as the eye was accustomed to their lustre they took the appearance of glistening exhalations, which illuminated the surrounding objects and communicated to them that intermediate tint of light and shade which is so pleasing at the entry of a large cavern. This ought to be visited by novel writers desirous of producing some grand effect in the modern manner that has been adopted for this kind of composition. Otherwise all the efforts of their imagination will produce nothing but wretched sketches whenever they have to describe caverns, subterraneous halls, tombs, prisons, and other scenes dire and lugubrious. This cavern may contain as many as seven hundred thousand buckets of water. At the moment we saw it, it resembled much the publick square of a city illuminated all around, which made its extent appear much more considerable. The mine contains thirty-three similar caverns. The one we visited is the largest. They make use of them in the following manner. They convey to them soft water, which dilutes the saline parts with which the side walls are impregnated. The water is left there for some time to be perfectly well saturated, after which, it is conducted by canals to Hallein, where it is made to boil and to evaporate in order to extract the salt. After we had gone through the cavern in all its extent, we saw a kind of chariot advance, drawn by two workmen of the mine. We all seated ourselves on it. Our charioteers carried us at a fast trot through a beautiful gallery on an inclined plane hewn in a white marble rock, and we saw again the splendour of daylight. We found our clothes in a neighbouring saw-mill, where we took leave of our obliging director and his workmen.

C. F. A. C.

ORIGINAL.

[FOR THE SELECT REVIEWS.]

The Complete Farrier, or Gentleman's Travelling Companion; comprising a General Description of the Perfections and Imperfections of that Noble Animal the HORSE; with a concise Account of his Diseases, their Symptoms and Remedies; and Advice with respect to Purchase, Age, Action, Condition, Shoeing, Feeding, Exercise, Docking, Nicking, Pricking the Tail, and the Structure and Management of the Stable; with Directions for the Treatment of a Horse, Preparatory to, and on a Journey, whereby a Person will be at once prepared to treat any Accident or Disease that may occur. Compiled from the best Authorities, particularly adapted to this Country, and interspersed with much Original Matter, the Result of the Observations of a Gentleman of known Experience in the United States. pp. 248. Bradford and Inskeep, Philadelphia, 1809.

ON the first notification and appearance of this volume, *which offers so much*, we prepared ourselves for a disappointment when we should come to its perusal; for the titles of book are something similar to Vintners' *Signs;* the most specious and promising do not always indicate the best entertainment; and under an inviting portico we frequently find but an insipid host, and a very scurvy bill of fare. Amidst the swarms of ephemeral publications to which this observation is justly applicable, the volume now before us must be acknowledged to be a solitary but honourable and distinguished exception. We have examined its contents with a high degree of satisfaction, and we do not doubt, but every friend to that noble and generous animal which is the subject of the treatise, will find in its perusal an unexpected treat; and more clear and comprehensive practical information than in any other volume of its size hitherto published.

The author or compiler, with a view to render the account of the diseases of the horse more intelligible to those readers who are altogether unacquainted with anatomy, commences with a sketch of the general structure of the animal; the bones, with their vessels, ligaments, cavities, period of formation, &c. the eyes, lungs, heart, stomach; their conformation, functions and peculiarities. Next follow the formidable train of diseases to which this most useful quadruped is subject, among which are fever, inflammation of the lungs, inflammation of the bowels, stomach, kidneys, bladder, eyes and liver; strangles, or throat distemper, lockjaw, broken wind, jaundice, gripes, staggers, diarrhœa or purging, diabetes or excessive staling, worms, hide-bound, surfeit, mange, grease or scratches, mallenders and sallenders, glanders, farcy, wounds and bruises, fistula in the withers, poll-evil, saddle-galls, sitfasts, strains, ringbones, wind-galls, spavin, with a melancholy train of *et ceteras*. The symptoms, causes, nature, prevention and proper treatment of these, are particularly pointed out. The observations of the writer are evidently deduced from long experience and a minute attention to the subject; and so much feeling and good sense appears in his reasoning and remarks, as do equal honour to his understanding and humanity. The anatomy and physiology of the foot are treated in a clear and masterly manner. The principles of *shoeing*, so little known and attended to by those whose ignorance produces such extensive mischief and misery to this generous, uncomplaining animal, are laid down with such plainness and precision, that, for the sake of humanity, we could wish this section in particular, to be read and studied by every blacksmith in the union. The numerous and distressing diseases of the foot are next minutely described, and the proper treatment, as well as mode of prevention particularly pointed out. The articles bleeding, physick, &c. are followed by advice on the management of a horse preparatory to and during a journey, with which every

gentleman ought to be familiarly acquainted. Feeding, exercise, docking, and nicking are treated of at large; and the volume concludes with advice and direction with respect to the purchase of a horse; from which we make the following extract as a specimen of the merits and usefulness of the work.

ADVICE AND DIRECTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PURCHASE OF A HORSE.

The chicanery and artifice too generally practised by dealers in horses, renders it necessary that unwary as well as unskilful purchasers should have some rules laid down by which they may, in a degree, avoid or guard against such fraudulent and dishonourable practices. Indeed, it is to be lamented that some men who evince a proper regard for moral rectitude in their ordinary transactions, will, when selling a horse, deviate from their true character, by extolling the animal beyond his real merit, or by concealing material faults or latent defects, in direct violation of truth and candour.

We shall now describe the horse in as brief a manner as possible, noticing some of the most material imperfections; and shall also lay down some rules by which the age may be judged of with a tolerable degree of certainty, at least until he arrives at an advanced age.

The purchaser ought first to examine the horse as he stands in the stall, when no person is near him, and observe whether he stands firm and steady on all his legs; if he shifts their position frequently and appears restless, it indicates hard usage or something worse; and, although it may not be a sufficient reason alone, to decline a purchase, the cause ought first to be well inquired into.

BREAST AND FORE LEGS.

Having examined the horse in the stall, let him be brought out of the stable and placed upon level ground (not with his fore feet several inches higher than the hind ones, which is a universal practice among dealers) then minutely examine his limbs, beginning at his breast which should be reasonably broad and a little projecting; as a hollow, small, and contracted breast indicates weakness and an aptness to stumble.—Thence examine from his elbows to his knees, which is by some called the fore thighs, and by others the arms. These ought to be fleshy and a little bulging on the out side, but nearly straight within. If, on the contrary, they are lean and slender, it is a sign of weakness. See that he does not tremble or totter, but stand firm upon his knees, which should bear an exact proportion to each other and be stout, lean and sinewy; if they be scared it will at least afford reason to suspect that he is a stumbler if nothing worse.—The legs from the knees to the pasterns, or fetlock joints, should be lean and flat. If, on the inside, hard excrescences or knots are found, they are splents; but if they do not approach too near the knee joint, they seldom or never occasion lameness, and generally go away of themselves as the horse grows in years.

The horse should also stand firm on the pastern joints, which must be of equal size, clean, and well knit, and the pasterns be strong, stout, and almost upright. If, on the contrary, they are long, slender, and bending, or tottering and leaning forward, it indicates weakness as well as hard usage. After examining thus far, stand a few paces before the horse and see that he is not bow-legged, that is, the knees turning outwards and the toes inward; for, this is a defect not only disagreeable to the sight, but a horse thus formed never can be sure footed.

HOOFS.

This is a proper time also to examine the hoofs, on which much depends; they should be large, black, smooth, tough and nearly round, not too flat, neither too upright, and the bottom concave. White hoofs are apt to be tender and do not so well bear, or retain the shoe. A hoof that is flat and pumiced on the under side is generally tender, and indicates founder or some other defect. If the hair lie smooth at the edge of the hoof and the flesh even, all is well there, but if the hair is rough and the flesh raised and uneven, a ring, or quittor-bone may be apprehended.

THIGHS AND HIND LEGS.

The hinder thighs should be thick, full within, and bulging on the outside, at what is called the stifle or middle joint. Lean and slender thighs are not so agreea-

ble to the sight, nor do they promise much service. From the thigh bones to the hock, or what is by some called the gambrel joints, should be pretty long, but from thence to the pasterns or fetlock joints short, and the leg lean, flat and sinewy.

The hock joint should be particularly examined, and to be perfect must not be fleshy, but consist of skin, bone, veins, and sinews only; bending a little rather than too straight. If any knots or swellings (either hard or soft) are found in the hollow part, or inside of the legs, just below the joint; beware of spavin; for although the horse may not yet be lame, a little labour will probably make him so. The remarks before made with respect to the pastern, or fetlock joints of the fore legs, also apply to those of the hind. If scabs are found on the inside of the pasterns of the fore or hind legs, it is evident that he cuts or interferes, which is a great objection, particularly if the horse is intended for the saddle. Windgalls are little swellings which are often found just above the fetlock joints. They proceed from hard usage, but seldom occasion lameness unless when they become very large and firm.

HEAD.

The head should be of a medium size, the forehead bulging, and the face from the root of the ears to the nose a little bending outward. A hallow faced horse, with his nose projecting, never can please the eye, though he may not be the worse for service.

The countenance should be cheerful, the ears sharp, well pricked, set high and moving, which indicates life and activity; while on the contrary, thick, leering, wide set and unmoving ears, are signs of dulness and bad temper. The cheeks should be wide and thin, and the space between the jaws also wide, and without knots or kernels, and the windpipe very large; which are all signs of good wind as well as courage. But if the jaws are fat and thick, and the space between them fleshy and nearly closed up, the horse must necessarily breathe with difficulty. The head should be of a gradual taper, rather small just above the mouth, which should be large, as a horse with a small mouth never carries or bears the bit well. The nostrils should be wide, and when the horse is in motion, a redness should appear within, which indicates free breathing.

EYES.

These organs ought to be most minutely examined, and in a situation where the glare of light is not too strong; the middle sized eyes are to be preferred. It is better, however, that they should be rather large than small. They should be round, lively, dark coloured (but not entirely black) and so clear and shining that you can see far into them, and when the horse is moving, but little of the white should appear.—Eyes that are very black or cloudy, ought to be avoided, as they are generally prone to disease. Most dealers in horses are prepared to account (and sometimes with great adroitness) for every defect that an observing purchaser may happen to discover or point out, and particularly as respects the eyes, which they studiously endeavour to make appear as trivial, or of no consequence at all. The purchaser, however, should be aware of such sophistry, and not rely too implicitly upon it; but rather trust to his own judgment, or that of some disinterested friend.

NECK AND SHOULDERS.

The neck should be long, and small at the setting on of the head, growing deeper from thence to the shoulders. The upper edge should be thin and rising a little semi-circular from the shoulders to the head; the mane thin and strong, as a heavy, thick mane, bull neck, or a very lean and slender neck, are never pleasing to the sight. The shoulders should be thin, and lie well back; but to judge correctly of them, the horse should stand upon level ground. If the shoulders are thick and upright, he will not answer well for the saddle, as too much weight will necessarily be thrown upon his fore legs, which will make it unpleasant, as well as unsafe for the rider. For a draught horse, however, thick and upright shoulders are rather a recommendation than otherwise. Beware of swellings on the top of the head, or on the withers, as the former may result in the poll-evil and the latter in the fistula.

BODY.

The back should be short, and the chine broad or thick, and moderately curved, but if too much bending, or what is called saddle backed, it is never strong. A horse with a high or roach back is very objectionable, as he never can be used under the saddle with satisfaction to the rider. If the chine be thin the saddle will not

sit well. A horse with a high back, or thin chine, is, however not the worse for harness.

The ribs should not be flat, but bend well outward, the last rib should approach the hip or huckle bone within about four or five inches, and the belly be moderately let down, but not to swag.

A flat ribbed horse with a gaunt or clung up belly, can never perform much labour. The buttocks should be round, full, and the rump nearly on a level with the back, and the tail set high. Thin, contracted, or steep buttocks, are always offensive to the eye, though probably do not injure the animal for actual service.

It is a good sign when a horse is deep in the girthing place; but if, on the contrary, he is there slender, it indicates weakness.

MOVING.

After having attentively examined the horse standing, let him be rode in your presence on hard level ground, fifteen or twenty rods backward and forward frequently, first in a walk, then alternately in his other gaits. Observe his mouth that he bears steady and fair on the bit, his head well up, but his nose not much projecting, as this is a great fault, especially for a riding horse. Stand occasionally before as well as behind him, and see that his toes neither turn inward or outward, and that he goes rather narrower before than behind, as no horse can move well on his legs unless he does. If he goes too close there is reason to believe he will cut. His action should be lively, and when in a trot his fore legs well thrown forward, though even and regular, and not clambering. Observe that he treads firm on the hardest ground, otherwise you may be assured he is tender footed, which is a great fault and diminishes his value much. His hind legs when in a trot should move even, bending a little outward at the hock, and be thrown well under him, though never to strike the fore shoes, which is called forging, and is very objectionable. If he takes up his feet slovenly, throws them outward, steps irregular, or clambers, have nothing to do with him for any active service; as he is only fit for the heavy draught.

RIDE YOURSELF.

After a minute examination, such as before recommended, should you be of opinion that the horse is likely to answer your purpose, mount yourself and ride him a few miles *alone*, otherwise you cannot judge correctly of his gaits or spirits, as most horses go much freer and better in company than they do alone. This is a proper time also to observe his wind. Such trial is the more necessary as it is not uncommon to meet with horses whose gaits and actions are pleasing to the eye; yet, when mounted, are intolerably rough and unpleasant to the rider, and often addicted to start and stumble.

Do not permit yourself to be hurried into the purchase of a horse because he is a beautiful figure, or otherwise fascinating in his external appearance, but always examine *more than once* before you purchase; otherwise, it is highly probable that some material defects will escape your notice; especially, if you are not a critical judge. This caution is the more necessary because your morals as well as pecuniary interest may both suffer. For, should it so happen that by making a hasty purchase, you get a horse defective in some essential points, that will by no means answer the intended purpose, you may possibly be induced to commence the jockey, to get him off your hands; and, in order to do this with the least loss to yourself, you may not consider it indispensably necessary to acquaint the purchaser (perhaps as unwary as yourself) with the whole truth respecting the defective animal; in which case your morals will most certainly be implicated.

It is also necessary to have particular regard to the kind of service for which the horse is intended. If for the saddle or any active service, the middle size, say about fifteen hands high, well formed as before described, is to be preferred; but, if for a slow and heavy draught, the larger and stronger the better.

Small horses answer equally well for the purposes of agriculture, as well as for many other employments to which their strength are adequate.

All the extraordinary qualities and exact symmetry, before described, will seldom or never be met with in any one horse; the purchaser, however, will, no doubt, give a preference to those that approach them the nearest.

We cannot take leave of this little volume without most heartily recommending it to the perusal of every person in the United States, who either is or expects to be in possession of a horse. The general dissemination of

the information and instructions it contains, would, we are persuaded, be productive of the most beneficial effects, not only to the excellent and most useful class of animals it describes, but would check a thousand impositions which are daily practised in the transfer of horses, and all the numberless inconveniences, losses, and vexations which are the necessary consequences of such deceptions.

The volume is also illustrated by three well executed quarto plates; one exhibiting the muscular system of the horse; another the asteology or complete skeleton; and a third displaying the elegance and majesty of this noble animal in two fine figures of the celebrated race horse *Royalist*, and the hunter *Sky Lark*.

FROM THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.

Code de la Conscription, ou Recueil Chronologique des Lois et des Arrêtes du Gouvernement, des Décrets Imperiaux relatives à la Levée des Conscrits, à leur remplacement, aux dispenses de service, &c. depuis l'an VI. jusques et compris l'an XIV. Avec Tables, &c. 8vo. pp. 270. Paris, 1806.

WE hate war, and we detest despotism; and wish earnestly that there were no occasion to study the organization of the one, or the resources of the other. But when war is inevitable, and despotism overbearing,—and when both together are darkening the whole horizon of the civilized world, it becomes, of all things, the most necessary to inquire, how they have been united, and in what manner their combination has contributed to their success. It is now our indispensable duty, we think, to make ourselves acquainted with the structure of that military establishment which has triumphed so fatally over every other to which it has yet been opposed,—to ascertain how far its excellences may be copied among a free people,—and to determine to what extent its efficacy or permanence may be rendered precarious by the oppressions which it entails on those who are subject to it.

The perusal of the work before us, which has been recently transmitted from France, with a full commentary of facts, by a diligent and judicious observer, has enabled us to lay before our readers some materials for such an inquiry; and to direct the attention of our countrymen to the internal organization of a power, which must be understood before it can be resisted; and with which we can neither be at peace nor at war in safety, till we comprehend, in some measure, the nature of the foundations on which it rests. The book is entitled "*Code de la Conscription*," and contains a chronological series of laws enacted since the year 1798, on the subject of the military conscription of France. It should be remarked, that the new French jurisprudence has been promulgated under the various titles of the Civil, Rural, Commercial, and Criminal *Codes*—and this. the "Code de la Conscription;" which, no doubt, is, of the whole *Napoleon Corpus Juris*, most dear to the modern Justinian, and most odious to his "great and good subjects."

Tacitus somewhere observes of Tiberius, that his speeches to the senate, by the "involutions" of the style, at once betrayed the character of their author, and seemed to shadow out the picture of his cautious, dark, and crooked policy. This volume, consisting of two hundred and seventy close printed pages, obscure and even unintelligible in all its clauses of lenity, and clear only in its provisions of rigour, might suggest a similar observation, and be traced to the ruminations of an ambitious and sanguinary despotism.

In fact, the extreme difficulty which we (with no vulgar helps) have experienced in collecting the scope and import of this extraordinary volume, convinces us that, to the great majority of Frenchmen, the whole must be as incomprehensible as the mysteries of Eleusis, or the traditions of the Cabala. There is an oracle at hand, indeed, which will readily expound one half of the mystery. The military tribunals will soon make them understand the penalties annexed to disobedience; but they have, and can have no instruction as to their immunities. For it is a remarkable and most instructive fact, that notwithstanding the voluminous annotations daily issuing from the French press on *every other* branch of the imperial jurisprudence, no one has yet been bold enough to publish a single word to elucidate the text, or blazon the moderation of the *Code de la Conscription*.

It is impossible even to glance at this volume, without being struck with the extreme anxiety which these statutes betray, to enforce conformity, both in the executioner and the victim. The enumeration of cases is so complete as to preclude the possibility of evasion. The publick functionaries have their respective provinces most accurately marked out; and are furnished with distinct *formulæ* for every act of office. The severest and most unrelenting punishment is inflicted upon all who, from negligence, or corruption, or pity, give countenance to the slightest relaxation. The diseases which give right to exemption are detailed with a jealous and disgusting minuteness. Precautions are multiplied without number to secure the persons of the conscripts; and, while they are decorated with the title of "*Defenseurs de la Patrie*," the uniform tenour of these laws, and the tone of bitter reproof which pervades them, afford conclusive evidence of a general aversion for the trade of war; and serve to convince us, that these Achilleses are not easily roused to arms, whatever enthusiasm they may afterwards display in the field. Some few provisions are introduced on the subject of voluntary enlistments; but, *as no bounty is allowed*, it is evident that they do not enter into the serious consideration of the government. The old compromise between the military exigencies and civil constitution of the state,—between the effeminacy of the rich and the wants of the poor,—between the ambition of the sovereign and the rights of the subject, is rejected with disdain by the imperial republick; and the student is dragged relentlessly from his closet, and the peasant from his hiding place, by an indiscriminating and unqualified coercion. But habit soon renders submission, if not cheerful, at least easy; rapine furnishes sources of munificence and conciliation; courage becomes a virtue of necessity; strength is acquired by discipline; military ardour kindles with competition; and experience too fatally proves, that, from such elements, armies may be compounded, alike formidable for discipline and valour.

We shall now proceed to lay before our readers a connected view of the law of the conscription as it is now enforced, and to interweave with those statements such illustrations of the present state of the French empire, as may be necessary to develop the whole organization of conquest. No subject, at the present moment, can claim so terrible an importance. The levies of those continental nations, which still preserve the forms of independence, are, it is said, to be moulded upon the same model; and the conscription is, undoubtedly, the *vis motrix* of that great engine to which France owes her aggrandizement, and on which she relies, for the future increase of her dominion. Her politicians exultingly apply to it the language of Vegetius concerning the legion, that it seems rather an inspiration of divine wisdom, than the offspring of human invention. The plan of universal conquest, imputed originally to Louvois, and with more truth, perhaps, ascribed by

Mr. Burke to the directory, is now, not merely digested into a regular system, but may actually be said to be in a course of execution; and to be proceeding with a steadiness and success, which must strike alarm into the most confident and unthinking. The world, in the opinion of all Frenchmen, is to be again subdued by the discipline and the arts of Rome. *Folard's Polybius, Machiavel on Livy, and Montesquieu on the Grandeur et Declination*, are more than ever "the manuals" from which they draw their lessons of perseverance and cunning. The reading classes of France have always been fond of historical research. Their republick made them passionate admirers, and *enlightened imitators* of antiquity; and their government, availing itself of this predilection for the victorious commonwealths of Greece and Rome, soon taught them to overlook altogether individual interests, and tastes, and enjoyments, both in their foreign politicks, and in the details of their internal economy. They admit "no balanced advantages, or diverging claims" All the capacities, and energies, and habitudes of private life, are unrelentingly wrested to the production of force, for the subjugation of the globe, or, as coordinate with this object, for the aggrandizement of the reigning family. The changes of form in their government have occasioned no remission in this pursuit. It has always been spoken of among them with confidence and zeal. Events have recently brought it more into notice; and nothing now remains but to achieve the ultimate object, "*la grande pensée*," as it is emphatically styled in the coteries of Paris.

That our readers may the better understand our abstract of the laws on the conscription, it is proper to premise, that France is divided into about 30 military governments, subject to a general of division and his staff, to which commissaries are attached as executive officers. The civil division consists of 122 departments; 24 of which have been acquired since the overthrow of the monarchy, exclusive of Tuscany, not included in any part of this statement. The departments are divided into districts or *arrondissements*, from 3 to 5 in number; the *arrondissements* into cantons, and the cantons into municipalities, amounting to about 55,000. Each department is governed by a prefect and his council, composed of a commissary of police, a mayor, and certain inspectors, denominated *counsellors of prefecture*. The district or *arrondissement*, by a subprefect and his council, of a similar formation. The cantons and municipalities are under the supervision of an administration, composed of the civil authorities, with a president at their head. A mayor, a commissary of police, and two officers of the government, styled *adjuncts*, are allotted to every division having a population above 5000 souls. These several authorities are in strict subordination to each other, and at the control of the prefects and subprefects; who, themselves, are charged with a weighty and inflexible responsibility as to the military levies.

The conscription was first published in the form of a general law by the council of ancients in the year 1798, and has since undergone some slight modifications. The *directorial plan* is attributed to Carnot, who, in the revolutionary language, is said "to have organized victory in the French armies." Its author, who was enthusiastically devoted to the forms of antiquity and still preserves, within the rays of the imperial purple, all the simplicity of ancient manners, found his model in the constitution of the Roman *republick*, which made every citizen a soldier before the age of forty-six,—in their *annual* levies, which admitted of no exception,—and in the peremptory orders issued by their consuls to the magistrates of Italy, specifying the number of troops required, and the place of assemblage.

By the law of the directory, all Frenchmen are pronounced soldiers; and when the *country is declared in danger*, are liable to be summoned to its defence. In any other conjuncture, "*the wants of the army are relieved by the conscription;*" and the requisite number of conscripts is determined by the senate or legislative body, at the suggestion of the executive government. The law which limits the whole number, regulates, at the same time, the contingent of each department, proportionally to its population. Within eight days after publication, the *prefect* distributes this contingent among the districts, by the same rule;* and the *subprefect* among the cantons and municipalities. All Frenchmen *between the full age of twenty and twenty-five complete*, are liable to the conscription. They are each year thrown into five classes; the first of which, consists of those who have completed their twentieth year on the 1st Vendemaire, or 16th September preceding; the second of those who, at the same period, have terminated their twenty-first year, and so on, in the order of seniority. Thus, the conscript, who has attained the full age of twenty-five, remains liable, until the month and day just mentioned. The municipal administrations are bound to prepare lists framed from the registers of births, and from common notoriety, which particularize the name, domicile, stature, &c. of all the individuals subject to the conscription, within their jurisdiction. The same individuals are also bound to enrol themselves, with a similar specification, at the office of the municipality, as soon as the law is published. Both lists are then transmitted to the prefects, who are responsible for their accuracy, and who immediately consign them over to the minister of war.

Eight days are allotted to the preparation of the lists. The conscripts* are then assembled in each canton, and examined by the administration, or by a special commission, created *ad hoc* by the prefect. The merits of all pleas of exemption are scrutinized at these meetings. Such as plead infirmities, if able to attend, are examined on the spot; and if not, are visited at their dwellings by "the inspectors" and health officers. The latter, generally physicians in the army, are not selected until the moment of examination; and, to obviate collusion, must belong to a district different from that of the conscript. The final decision of all cases of exemption is referred to a commission of higher resort, composed of the prefect, the general officers and commissaries of the department. When these claims are disposed of, lists are formed of those who are adjudged competent to serve, whether present or absent; and the subprefect then proceeds to the "*drawing*," or designation by lot, of such as are to constitute the *quota* of the district. Tickets regularly numbered, to the amount of the names on the list, are publickly deposited in an urn, and indiscriminately drawn out by the conscripts or their friends. The lot falls upon those who draw the numbers below the amount of the quota. The higher numbers drawn by the rest are annexed to their names, in order that they may be forthcoming in their order, should any casualty disable their predecessors. Absentees not presenting themselves within a month after the drawing, are declared *refractory*, proclaimed throughout the empire, and pursued as deserters.

These are the conscripts of "*the active service.*" But besides these, the law requires *an equal number*, to form what is termed, in contradistinction, the conscription "*of the reserve.*" The members of the reserve are nominated, with the same formalities, to *march only in cases of emergency;* are regularly organized, and carefully disciplined, within their own department,

* Two brigades of *Gendarmerie* usually attend. This is a body of military, having the same functions as our constables, and about 16,000 in number.—*Peuchet.*

from which they are not suffered to absent themselves. A third body is then created, of *supplemental conscripts*, equal in number to *one fourth* of the whole contingent, and destined to fill up the vacancies which may be occasioned before junction at head quarters, by death, desertion, or other causes. If the supplement should not be adequate to this purpose, the reserve supplies its place; and at all events no deficiency is permitted, as each canton is accountable for its full assessment. No Frenchman under the age of thirty can travel through the empire, or hold any situation under government, or serve in any publick office, unless he can produce a certificate, duly authenticated, attesting that he has discharged his liability to the conscription.

All the authorities are bound *in solidum*, and under the severest sanctions, to observe that the conscripts are assembled, reviewed and dismissed to their destination without delay. They are marched *under an escort* of gendarmérie, *and in bodies strictly limited to the number of one hundred*, to various quarters or depôts throughout the empire, and there first supplied with arms and clothing. They are never permitted to exist in separate battalions, but are individually *(nominativement)* draughted into, or scattered through, distinct corps of the preexisting army, to which they are marched in exceedingly small detachments, and sometimes from an astonishing distance.

Dispensations are given by the higher military tribunal of the prefect; and are provisional or definitive, according to the nature of the disability pleaded. For all diseases pronounced curable, the discharge is but temporary. The infirmities which tend to disqualify, are discriminated with the nicest care, and accompanied by copious scientifick explanations. The minister of war reviews the decisions of this tribunal; and if a suspicion of partiality arise, orders the medical inquiry to be renewed. The party released pays an *indemnity* to the government, the amount of which is proportioned, by the prefect, to his taxes, or those of his parents. No exceptions were originally allowed to the law "of *active service*;" but at this moment, the eldest brother of an orphan family, the only son of a widow, or of a labourer above the age of seventy, or one who has a brother in the *active service*, may, on soliciting the indulgence, be transferred to the reserve. The same privilege is accorded to those who have taken the order of subdeacon in the ecclesiastical seminaries. *Parents continue responsible for their absent children, until they can produce an official attestation of their death.**

The directory admitted of no substitution; but the severity of this principle is now relaxed in favour of such as are adjudged "*incapable of sustaining the fatigues of war*," or, "whose labours and studies *are deemed* more useful to the state than their military services." Proxies are there-

* We find, on the subject of dispensation, two decrees which should be noted. One, p. 100, of the year ninety-nine, by which all workmen engaged in the manufacture of arms and gunpowder, or employed in the national magazines of saltpetre, &c. are exempted; and another, p. 104, of the year 1802, enacting, that *congés* equal in number to the one fourth of the whole body of soldiers and subalterns in the army, should be given to such as had served irreproachably during the whole war, or during five campaigns, as soon as they could be replaced by new recruits. The inspector charged with the distribution of these *congés*, is enjoined, however, to remind the soldiers how much they are in the wrong to abandon the *first of professions* (le premier *des etats*). In the year ninety-eight, the law was repealed which exempted married persons from the conscription. *Depere*, and with him Malthus, attributes the increased proportion of births in the country, anteriour to that period, to premature marriages, *to avoid the military levies.* (Malthus, b. 2. c. 6.) "*Les mariages prematurés et multipliés par la crainte des loix militaires*," are particularly noticed in the statistical reports of the prefects for the year eight.

fore received only *ad libitum;* not as a matter of right; and never without a special mandate from the minister of war. The conscript furnishes a sum of about 5*l.* (100 francs) for the equipment of his substitute, who must be between the age of *twenty-five and forty, of the middle size at least, of a robust constitution, of a good character certified by his municipality, and himself beyond the reach of the conscription laws.* He bears the surname of his principal, in order that the latter may be known and compelled to march, should his proxy desert, or be lost from any other cause than death, or wounds received in battle *within the term of two years.*

All the enacting clauses of this system are fortified by heavy denunciations against publick functionaries, *parents*, or others who contribute to defeat or retard its operation. Any health officer or other functionary convicted of furnishing a false certificate of infirmity, &c. is subjected to *five years imprisonment in irons.* All civil and military officers, even of the highest rank, convicted of favouring the escape, or concealing the retreat of a fugitive, are exposed to excessive fines. Conscripts detected in counterfeiting infirmities, or *mutilating themselves*, are placed "*at the disposition of the government*" for five years, to be employed in such publick labours as may be judged most useful to the state. The absentees or *refractory* conscripts, whose apprehension is secured by the most minute and efficient precautions, besides undergoing the corporal punishment entailed on their offence, are amerced in a sum of fifteen hundred francs, equivalent, from the comparative value of money in the two countries, to about one hundred and twenty pounds sterling. This sum, together with the expenses incurred in the pursuit, *is levied inexorably on the real property of the father or mother*, should the fugitive possess none in his own right.*

* It will not be impertinent to exemplify, here, the immoderate rigour exercised on the points now before us, by a few paragraphs taken at random from the journals of the country. The following is from *the Mercure de France* of August 1807. "Jean Vidal senior, of the commune of Orbon, in order to enfranchise his son from the conscription, had employed a false document, knowing it to be false. This document was the record of his birth, in which it was stated that he was born in 1734, although the real period of his birth was 1744. His object was to be considered *as having attained the age of* 71, and therefore entitled to claim for his son the indulgence of the law. The special court of criminal justice has, by a decree of the 21st July, condemned this person *to eight years labour in irons, to be branded with a hot iron on the left shoulder, to an exposition of six hours, and to the expenses of the prosecution, and of* 400 *copies of the decree.*" The two following are from the *Journal de L'Empire* of August 2d and 7th. "The tribunal of corrective police *(police correctionelle)* of Paris, finished yesterday the trial of seven persons charged with extortion from conscripts,—"Escroquerie en matiere de conscription." Tessiaire, a surgeon's apprentice, was accused of having *blown into the eyes of a multitude of conscripts*, a powder calculated to excite inflammation, and of having received from their friends, *for this service*, various sums between two and three thousand livres, *somewhat more than* 200*l.* from each. Six other persons were accused of making him known to different conscripts, and of sharing in his profits. While one of these, a goldsmith, called *Lugot*, the father of three children, took his place at the bar, *his wife was carried to the grave, having died of fright*, when she was told that her husband had been summoned to appear before the tribunal to answer to a charge *connected with the conscription.* This melancholy catastrophe induced the tribunal to mitigate his punishment. The rest, and among them a woman of some respectability, suffered the utmost rigours of the law." The second case is not a little singular. "The military commission of Turin (department of the Po) decided, in the course of last July, a new case of delinquency with regard to the conscription. Two inhabitants of Turin were convicted, by this commission, of having *forestalled* (accaparé) a great number of substitutes for the department, *by maintaining them at their own expense in houses appropriated to this object, and then selling them out at an advanced price* to the conscripts who wished to

Nine garrison towns are designated, throughout the empire, as *dépôts* for the refractory conscripts. They are lodged in the citadels, subjected to a most rigid discipline, and made to work in the arsenals, or on the roads, clad in a particular uniform, with their heads closely shaved. Five years constitute the term allotted to this confinement; but it is added, "that they are to be gradually drafted into the army, as they give tokens of docility and reformation!" Every conscript absenting himself for twenty-four hours from his *dépôt*, is punished as a deserter. A special council of war is assembled to decide upon cases of desertion. The penal sanctions are, 1st, death; 2d, the punishment of the ball *(la peine du boulet)* and, 3d, publick, or hard labour.

The nature of the 2d, the punishment of the ball, merits notice. An iron ball of 8lb. weight, and fastened to an iron chain of seven feet in length, is attached to the leg of the deserter. He, in the first instance, hears his sentence read, on his knees, and is condemned to hard labour during ten hours daily, and, in the interval of rest, to be chained in solitary confinement. This sentence is rigorously executed, and embittered by all the external marks of ignominy in dress and appearance. The duration of this punishment, which is ten years, is prolonged, and an additional ball fettered to the leg, in cases of contumacy or serious disobedience. We have remarked a curious provision connected with this double delinquency. The party is solemnly interdicted, under pain of two years imprisonment in irons, from fixing himself, after he is set at liberty, *within twenty leagues of the seat of government!* The third class of punishment (*les travaux publics*) is exempt from the iron ball; and, in other respects, only differs from the preceding in the length of the term, which is but three years. A fine of 1500 francs is inseparable from all cases of desertion. Death is inflicted on the deserter to the enemy, and on him who, in deserting from the punishment of the ball, *carries off his own arms or those of his comrades.* The punishment of the ball is adjudged to such as escape into the interiour of the empire with their uniform, or with the effects of another; or from the publick labours which are inflicted upon those who are guilty of simple desertion into the interiour. In time of war, every officer or soldier, absenting himself for forty-eight hours from his corps, without permission, is reputed a deserter. The laws on the subject of desertion are read to the whole French army on the first Sunday of every month.

We have thus given a brief abstract of the law of the conscription, collected from the code itself. We shall now proceed to state the nature and effects of its execution, as represented to us by an observer, who, with the best opportunities, has witnessed them, in almost every part of France, during the progress of three levies.

The grand characteristick of the present administration of France, is relentless inflexibility. A host of informers secures the fidelity of the executive officers. Cases of the most signal and barbarous rigour, of which we have already given a few examples, crowd all the daily gazettes of the empire, and even the journals of Paris, into which they are compulsively and awkwardly thrust, in order that the quickening impulse of fear may be propagated through the entire mass of servitude. The columns now before us might nearly warrant the inference, that those tribunals which the weakness and depravity of our nature have rendered indispensable to all civilized

have proxies. This traffick," says the Moniteur, "by which the substitute receives but a small sum, while the *broker* receives a very large one, must always prove injurious to the lower classes."

communities, are, in France, exclusively occupied with one species of delinquency, happily unknown to the rest of the world. They entitle it, "*Escroquerie en matiere de conscription*," or the extortion of money from persons liable to service, under fraudulent promises of procuring them an exemption. A stranger in this "great nation" is haunted by the spectre of the police; but the native is attended by another "foul fiend," still more hideous, and threatening him with more degrading visitations. We have it from good authority, that a traveller frequently meets, on the high roads, and particularly in the vicinity of the great cities, twenty or thirty of those miserable beings, denominated refractory conscripts, guarded by a body of gendarmerie, *and coupled together with a rope attached to a horse's tail, as a badge of disgrace!**

Our readers may have observed, in the details of this system, a semblance of tenderness towards persons whose situation is apt to rouse those indignant feelings—that *insurgent* consciousness of right, which undisguised oppression never fails to excite even among the most degraded of human beings. Hypocrisy is the defence of fear against just resentment; and may, therefore, be well entitled, not only the homage which vice offers to virtue, but the tribute which despotism pays to liberty. The provisions on the subject of the reserve, to which we particularly allude, are altogether illusory. The ostensible purpose of its creation is to supply possible deficiencies, and to assist the armies in cases of great emergency. The emergency, however, has always been found to exist—"*Tyrannorum enim preces, nosti, quam permixtæ necessitatibus;*" and the reserve is uniformly compelled to march. Not only are all the conscripts of the current year thus swept away; but those of the preceding years, who have obtained a charter of exemption under the conditions prescribed by law, are also dragged into the field by a decree of the military chief of their department. We must not forget to mention another flagrant breach of law, if any enormity can be so called, which is committed, not only with impunity, but under the sanction of publick authority. In the first tumults of the revolution, the parochial registers, at no period very accurately kept, were almost wholly neglected. As, therefore, no official document can be produced for youths between seventeen and twenty, the recruiting officers, within the two last years, have taken advantage of this circumstance to include in the conscription numbers whose appearance corroborated their assertion, that they were beyond the age, and whose remonstrances were rendered unavailing by their condition in life. The most formidable, however, of all the evils extraneous to the code we have analyzed, is a practice which has prevailed, for some years, of anticipating *by law* the regular levies. The conscripts, as we know, of 1810, are already called out; and by this it must be understood, that those who would then attain the age of twenty, are already made to serve in the armies. These, and other causes connected with the abuse of unlimited power, bring into the field a numerous population of boys, in appearance scarcely able to bear the accoutrements of a soldier, and who, in their preparatory exercises, are objects both of pity and amazement. "† Un

* We find in the Journal de l'Empire, under the Paris head of the 21st October 1807, a paragraph, in which it is stated, that a recent act of amnesty had brought back *to their colours two hundred and four* refractory conscripts, and *ninety-two* deserters of the department of *Orne;* of which department, the *whole contingent* does not amount to more than 692 in a levy of 60,000 men!

† One of the most extraordinary spectacles of Paris is that of the young conscripts who perform their exercises in the *Champs Elisées.* The conquerors of the world are nothing but children!

des spectacles les plus extraordinaires de Paris," said a distinguished personage of that capital to a stranger, " c'est celui des jeunes conscrits, qui font leurs exercices dans les Champs Elisées. Les vainqueurs du monde ne sont que des enfans."

For the great majority, even of the better classes of conscripts, it is almost impossible to obtain proxies. When the physical requisites are not wanting in the principal, the government, indeed, studiously discourages substitution. The acknowledged hardships, and indeterminate duration of the military service, tend, moreover, to enhance so enormously the price of the few who are found to possess all the requisite qualifications, that they fall exclusively to the share of the rich. More than 200l. is frequently given for a substitute, a sum which, according to the rates of living in France, is much more considerable than with us; and far beyond the means of multitudes, who, in that country, with the habits of refined society, maintain an exteriour of tolerable ease. Of this class are the *amnestied* emigrants and old proprietaries, who enjoy, under the new dynasty, something of the abstract right, and but little of the benefits of *postliminium;* and who, in the bitterness of mortified pride, and the sadness of pining recollection, struggle to uphold a decent establishment with small fragments of their former estates.* The Revolution has, on the whole, had the effect of an Agrarian law. And the equalization of fortunes is, at this moment, among the most prominent vestiges which the tempest has left behind, for the instruction of the world; a consequence over which, in obedience to the dictates of reason, we should perhaps exult. But it is not easy to contemplate, without feelings of strong sympathy, the numbers of impoverished families and decayed gentlemen, who, wrestling with memory and destiny, under a perpetual recurrence of painful comparisons and hopeless wishes, exhibit, throughout France, striking monuments of the instability of human affairs, and salutary examples to the privileged orders and corrupt governments of other countries.

To persons of this description, who hate and despise their government—to the great body of professional men, and of drooping merchants and manufacturers, who educate their children with care and tenderness, and who find no compensation in the splendour of the imperial diadem, for the degradation of their own order, and the loss of domestick comfort, the conscription appears the maximum of human suffering, the most odious of all wrongs, and the most vexatious of all injustice. The Lyseés, or publick schools, the seminaries of ecclesiastical noviciate, the universities of law and physick, are all subject to the visits of the recruiting officer, and forced to surrender up their pupils, without exception of genius or taste, at a period of life when the morals are in a state of oscillation—when the character of the frame itself is scarcely determined, and the understanding but in the first stages of development. Parents are not only made to suffer the pains of a separation under such circumstances, but are condemned to the inexpressible grief of seeing the principles and manners of their children exposed to total wreck, in the infectious communion of the common soldiery—the meanest and most profligate of mankind. The impressment of a British seaman is doubtless a revolting spectacle; but

* From the period of the emission of assignats, in the year 1790, until 1801, the sale of national domains in France produced upwards of 100 millions sterling. These domains were principally made up of the confiscated property of emigrants, and served to defray the publick expenses in the first years of the Revolution. [*Ramel, Histoire des Finances de la Republique.*] Even in 1803, this sale continued, and produced about 18 millions of francs. [*Comptes Generaux du tresor public.*]

falls far short of the scene of real distress, exhibited at the balloting of a conscription, when the parents or friends of the conscript are indulged, as is often the case, in drawing his ticket from the fatal urn. The piercing shrieks and tumultuous acclamations alternately uttered on these occasions, by a people to whom nature has allotted such vivacity of character, wholly overpower the feelings of a spectator, and conduct him, irresistibly, to the conclusions we have adopted, concerning the spirit with which the imperial dispensations are obeyed.

We by no means condemn, but indeed cordially approve, a scheme of levies, which would summon, inexorably, all ranks to *the defence of the state*, and compel the opulent to make ample pecuniary retribution for the loss of their personal service in foreign operations. But the French conscription, as must be already apparent, rests upon quite another basis; and, under the garb of equality, acts with a most partial and vexatious pressure. Men of large fortune, the least respectable of the community of France at this moment, either monopolize the substitutes, or corrupt the inspecting officers, and thus disentangle themselves from the tramels of the law. The parasites of the court, by intrigue and favour, secure the same immunity to themselves and their friends. The great military and civil dignitaries of the empire are privileged *ex officio;* and this exemption will be gradually extended to all whose zeal is useful to prop the greatness of the ruling power. The burden, then, falls with accumulated weight upon the class of persons whom we have mentioned in a former page; and a still greater evil is inflicted, by thus confounding them with the dregs and lees of the community. Feelings and habitudes should be consulted in every general act of legislation; and in this instance, the distress and inconvenience occasioned to the lower orders, bear no proportion to the misery inflicted on the higher and middling ranks of the people. It is unnecessary, too, to have recourse to so comprehensive a plan of compulsion, for the creation of a force adequate to all the purposes of *ordinary warfare*. Louis XIV, when at war with the whole of the north of Europe, maintained an army of 300,000 men, principally made up by voluntary levies; and under the last unfortunate monarch of that name, the forces of the kingdom, recruited in the same manner, amounted to 200,000; of which Paris alone furnished annually 6000, although it now yields but 1400 for the conscription.

Notwithstanding the familiarizing experience of the past, and the certain expectation of the future, every new conscription spreads consternation through all the families of the empire. From the commencement of the war against Prussia, until the termination of the campaign in Poland, three several levies were raised; the last of which, proposed in the spring of 1807, created a sensation that is not to be adequately described. Although all correspondence relative to the position of the armies was rigorously interdicted, and no letters suffered to pass without scrutiny, it was impossible wholly to conceal, at least from the publick of Paris, the dreadful mortality which afflicted the march, and the incredible hardships inseparable from the movements of the troops, labouring under a scarcity of provisions, and the unaccustomed rigours of a northern winter. A third conscription was generally viewed as an undertaking much too bold for the internal administration, situated as it then was, and particularly, at a moment when a belief was current, among all ranks, that the emperour would be unable to extricate himself from the embarrassments in which he was supposed to be involved. The government appeared sensible of the hazard; and in order to prepare the publick mind for the event, caused their intention to be announced in whispers through the circles and three thousand coffee-houses of the capital.

The effect was every where visible, even to the eye of a cursory observer. An impression of terrour upon the countenances of those, who either were themselves exposed to the danger, or shuddered at the prospect of new revolutionary alarms; of suspicion, and joy but half disguised, in the lowering brows of the turbulent and disaffected, constantly on the alert to improve the concurrence of opportunity, and who hailed this desperate expedient, as a confirmation of their hopes relative to the perils of the army. The orator of the government, Renaud St. Jean D' Angely, shed tears of real or affected sorrow, as he stated the necessity of the measure; and the senate received it, contrary to their habit, in silent acquiescence, and with every indication of reluctance and dismay.* In order to assuage the general feeling, it was found advisable to qualify the new call for 80,000 men, by a clause which enacted, that they were *then* to be merely organized, and retained within the limits of the empire, as a national guard. Circumstances enabled them to adhere to this condition, which, we need not add, would have been violated, if the armies had sustained a defeat, or the campaign been protracted to a more distant term. It was the established practice of the Romans, in their foreign wars, to maintain an army in Italy, ready to march in case of disaster. And a recourse to the same policy was indispensable for the French commander, to recall victory, had she deserted his standard, and to drive his antagonist to the conclusion of an ignominious peace, by intimidating him with the show of new and inexhaustible assailants.

It is not easy to convey a just idea of the state of Paris during this period of uncertainty and alarm. We believe, that there never has existed, with a vast majority of its inhabitants, a serious reliance on the stability of the present government. And we are credibly informed, that no doubt was then entertained of its immediate dissolution, if the armies had been broken and dispersed. We are told, that the proportion of idle, profligate and desperate adventurers, whom the revolution has ingendered, or accident collected in Paris, is truly astonishing; and that there is still to be found, among the literati of every class, and even in the deliberative assemblies, a numerous body, with a marked predilection for republican institutions. The first were, and are, ripe and eager for any change; and the latter, equally prepared to reassert their favourite opinions, and cooperate in the subversion of a government, by which they are held in contempt, and reduced to a most abject and contumelious servitude. As Paris, together with the rest of the empire, was left almost destitute of troops, the danger was only to be counteracted by quickening the vigilance, and multiplying the terrours of their domestick inquisition. Among the anomalies of the human character that confound all general reasoning, there is none more incomprehensible than the empire which this tribunal exercises over the whole nation. A people, of all others, the most mercurial in their temper—the most thoughtless in their levity—the most ungovernable in their fury; under the influence of this power, lose the distinguishing features of their character; and on subjects connected with the publick weal, display the vigilance of habitual fear, and all the sobriety and reserve of consummate prudence. They know and observe, as it were instinctively, the precise limits assigned to the range of language; and, conscious that a mysterious ubiquity is one of the attributes of this searching police, discipline, accordingly, the tongue

* Before the law was passed by the senate, the minister of police had issued his orders for the appearance of the conscripts of Paris at the registry. So securely did he rely upon the compliant disposition of that venerable body.

and the countenance, even in their domestick seclusion. Whoever has had occasion to know the present state of Parisian society will be struck with the prophetick accuracy of the following description, as applied to the aspect it wore at the period of which we are speaking. "Non alias magis anxia et pavens civitates gens adversum proximos, congressus, colloquia, nota ignotaque aures vitari, etiam muta atque inanima tectum et parietes circumspectabantur. Unde plena omnia suspicionem et vix secreta domuum sine formidine. Sed plurimum trepidationes in publico. Ut quemque nuntium fama attulerat animum vultumque conversi, ne diffidere dubiis, ne parum gaudere prosperis viderentur," &c. "Coacto vero in curiam senatu, arduus rerum omnium modus, ne contumax silentium, ne suspecta libertas." [*Tacit. Hist. Lib.* i.]

In the midst of disquietude and fear, publick festivals were multiplied, in order to give an air of confidence to the administration at home; and an unusual degree of splendour brightened the court of the empress, who remained in Paris, and took a principal share in these mummeries of despotism. Her majesty was constantly glittering before the publick eye, either at the brilliant *cercles* of the Thuilleries, the numerous and magnificent fêtes of the Luxembourg and the Garde-Muble, or in the theatres, at the meanest of which she condescended to assist, and to inhale the incense of the multitude. The bulletins announcing the most brilliant successes were regularly kept back for some days, and rumours of disaster intentionally circulated, that the grateful intelligence might produce the greater sensation. These, and other contrivances, however, we are informed, had but little effect in quickening the sluggish loyalty of the body of the people. That emulation of servitude, which is so signally conspicuous in the publick bodies, great officers, and "mercenary Swiss" of state; and to which, under all absolute governments, the higher ranks have evinced so disgraceful a propensity, is but little seen among the lower classes of France; who manifest, for the most part, a chilling indifference to the personal exhibitions of the imperial family, and appear to have lost, in this respect, all the characteristick fervency of their nation.

These trembling anxieties, and humble precautions, will probably appear strange to those who only view at a distance the gigantick frame of this tremendous government, and have not reflected on the various dangers which precipitate the fall of a power founded in force. History shows, with what rapidity of descent old and deeply rooted establishments have sometimes fallen to the ground: and the circumstances of the French capital, in 1806, may warrant the presumption, that a system, resting only, as it were, on the surface, by its own oppressive weight—with no prescriptive authority—with few artificial barriers—with no titles to veneration or love—might have been struck down by the first gust of adversity. The alarm which was evidently felt, while it gilds the future with a ray of hope, practically illustrates a great maxim, which cannot be too often inculcated upon the rulers of every country, that for power, there is no more perishable foundation than *fear*. "Qui vero," says Cicero, "in libera civitate ita se instituunt, ut metuantur, his nihil esse potest dementius: quamvis enim demersæ sint leges alicujus opibus, quamvis timefacta libertas, emergunt tamen hæc aliquando, aut judiciis tacitis, aut occultis de honore suffragiis: acriores autem morsus sunt intermissæ libertatis, quam retentæ." [*Cic. de Officiis, lib.* ii. *cap.* vii.]

We may readily believe, that, if the conscription be hateful to Frenchmen, it must be still more so to the countries annexed to their empire. In Italy, and the low countries, many motives conspire to sharpen the sensi-

bility of the sufferers, and to foment that rancorous animosity which, as we are assured, is generally entertained against their oppressors. Their hereditary antipathies, well known to the reader of history, and certainly not to be subdued by the events of our own era; the incalculable and heart-struck evils inflicted upon them by the republick and her armies, "the record of which is written in the flesh, and cannot be erased;" the ruin of their old and favourite institutions; the defacement of their monuments of superstition and art; the impoverishment of all classes, and the actual stoppage of every source of private comfort and publick prosperity.* Under the exacerbation of past and present wrongs, they send forth their youth with a reluctance which may be easily imagined, and of which their oppressors are fully aware. In the distribution of the levies among the departments, the contingent allotted to the incorporated territories is designedly small; but the proportion, nevertheless, of their refractory conscripts is astonishingly great; and the coercive measures for the punishment of disobedience, tend to increase the odium of the law itself. The common ends of political dominion, and the purposes of fiscal regulation, of the conscription, and of espionage, have given a monopoly of all offices of profit or trust to Frenchmen, whose conciliatory manners and affected moderation are insufficient to allay the jealousy resulting from their intrusion. As the Romans spread themselves over the provinces of their empire, these new conquerors inundate every country where the supremacy of their arms is felt and acknowledged. The Napoleon code and the language of its authors are established in the courts of Westphalia; and the governments and civil employments are administered almost exclusively by Frenchmen. Clerks have been draughted from the post offices of Paris to conduct similar establishments in Hamburgh and Dantzick. The customhouse officers of Bordeaux and Nantz regulate the whole Baltick coast. In the countries nominally allied to France, which are treated with less lenity than the territories annexed to her empire, publick authority is every where exercised by Frenchmen; and what the rescript of the imperial legislator spares, private rapacity does not fail to devour. The members of the confederation of the Rhine are not subjected to the conscription; for, like the Romans, whose policy it was, not to make their subjects or allies as warlike as themselves, the modern pacificators exact no very copious supplies of men, but extort incredible contributions for the pay and clothing of their own troops. Mollien, the minister of the French treasury, in the printed budget of 1807, felicitates his emperour, on this subject, in the following terms. "Your majesty, sire, has protected your people, both from the scourge and the burdens of war. Your armies have added to their harvest of glory one *of foreign contributions;* which has assured their support, their clothing, and their pay." This compliment has nothing of the exaggeration of flattery. During the whole of the last campaign in the north, the treasury of Paris was overflowing. It is their object,† not merely to crush the armies, but

* See Brissot's address to his constituents for an official statement of the sufferings of Belgium during the revolution.

† In the report of the minister of war, of July 1807, on the results of the war with Prussia, the number of Prussian prisoners is estimated at 5179 officers, and 123,418 privates and subalterns; and of killed, at about 50,000. Comparing this statement with the official report of Berlin in 1805, we should have about 60,000 men for the actual force of that once potent monarch. The report of Visconti, one of the directors of the "*Musée Imperiale des Arts*," deserves to be placed by the side of that of the war minister. It records 350 paintings; 242 rare and precious manuscripts, many of them oriental; 50 statues; 80 busts; 192 articles of bronze, armour, &c.

to ruin the finances of that quarter, in order that the means and the hope of future resistance, may be more completely extinguished. In the above-mentioned *Rationarium*, the "*Recettes extraordinaires et exterieures*," are stated at more than thirty-two millions of livres; a sum exclusive of the exactions for the maintenance of the troops, the splendid establishments of the generals, and the gratification of private cupidity. This surplus is thrown into the list of "ways and means," to give colour to an idea publickly instilled, that foreign *tribute* will one day wholly exonerate the masters of the world from the burdens under which they now groan; as in the history of the Roman power, the military at all times, and, at one period, the whole states of Italy, were exempted from taxation.

If there be one principle of military discipline sanctioned by the universal experience of mankind, it is, that soldiers should be kept in a state of unremitting activity. No great commander has ever appeared, with whom this was not a leading maxim; and it may be taken as an axiom, that no conquering army will ever issue from the walls of an idle garrison, or the alehouses of a populous city. In attending to the general analogy of our constitution, we must be at once sensible, that the soldier who, when at a distance from the theatre of war, is not inured to extreme labour, and the officer whose eye is not habitually exercised in contemplating the image of his profession, in somewhat of its native proportions, can never be well prepared for the duties of a campaign. The science of command, and the mechanism of subordination, are not to be acquired by the mere manual training, or by the evolutions of small bodies of men; but must be studied on a large scale—in great camps and general movements. All the commentators on the tacticks of the ancients, are struck with the importance which they attached to these objects; and represent the fatigues of their military, even in an interval of peace, as prodigies of human endurance. Augustus, Adrian, and Trajan employed the 170,000 men that constituted the peace establishment of their empire, in publick works; and it is to their labours that we may trace the great roads, bridges, and causeways, of which such magnificent vestiges are still extant in the southern parts of Europe. We need not expatiate upon the chances of success for a general who wages war with an army to which there is truly no other difference between the field of battle and the field of parade, than the effusion of blood.

There is no part of the Roman policy which the French have more studiously copied, than their attention to military discipline. It is their intention, as they express it, to form "* *Une generation propre à la guerre et à la gloire*"—"*Un peuple guerrier porté à la gloire par ses lois*," &c. And for this purpose, the boys of all the *lycées* of the empire are made to march to their classes by the sound of the drum, and are taught the manual exercise during their hours of recreation. The exercises of the conscripts, after their union at the depots, are incessant, and of a nature to qualify them for the severest hardships. Not a moment of rest is allowed in the *short* interval between their incorporation and their march to the frontiers or to the enemy. The troops retained in France, which always consist of raw recruits, are collected in numerous bodies, and disciplined without intermission, upon a scale large enough to familiarize the private to the tumult of general action, and the officer to the use of the military *coup d'œuil*. The

as the spoil which, "the Protector of the Arts" had collected in the north during his campaign.

* A generation devoted to war and to glory—A warlike people carried on to glory by their laws, &c.

camp of Boulogne is intended for this purpose; and should rather be imitated as a nursery for soldiers, than dreaded as an assemblage of invaders. Fatigue, and the penalties of misconduct, make a dreadful havock among the conscripts, whose youth and condition entail a peculiar delicacy of frame and habits. The waste of life, however, is not one of the objects of imperial solicitude. An unlimited control over the population of the country enables them to replace every deficiency,* and the survivers are poured into the field with bodies moulded into strength,† and minds completely broken to the yoke. Thus, it was found that, with the aid of this probation, —of austere discipline,—and *of confidence in their commanders*, the French troops supported the privations and severities of the winter campaign of Poland, better than their adversaries, who fought under every natural advantage.

The fear of punishment, the dread of shame, and the hope of reward, are all made to operate in their system with the strongest effect. Blows, which tend to weaken the sense of personal dignity, are never given; but, when the resources of reproach and disgrace prove insufficient, recourse is had to the utmost rigours of solitary imprisonment, and to the penalties we have detailed in a former part of this article. They know the full value, too, of that *esprit de corps*, which has so often changed poltroons into heroes; and employ every art to excite and maintain it, by minute divisions and invidious oppositions, employed particularly during the operations of a campaign. It requires little more than one or two years to make veterans of men thus fashioned and conducted; who, according to the bent of their genius, are precipitated in every movement, and led on impetuously to every attack; and whose murmurs, if time were given for the intrusion of discontent, would be lost in the tumults of incessant agitation. By the dispersion of the new conscripts, as we have seen, *individually*, among their *veteran* predecessors of a few campaigns, disaffection evaporates without danger to the government; and the former are gradually assimilated to their companions. Once without the sphere of their domestick attractions, with no hope of escape, and conscious that their destiny is irreversibly fixed, they accommodate themselves to circumstances with the facility which belongs to a temperament preeminently flexible and ardent. They are kept as much as possible beyond the frontiers, not merely for the purposes of conquest and rapine, but in order that they may the sooner lose the qualities of the citizen, and become altogether the creatures of the general. With a view to render this conversion more perfect, and more secure for the government, the principal leaders are frequently transferred from one corps to another, in order that no dangerous attachment to individuals may arise from a long continuance in the same command.‡ If their service has

* Were I to raise a new army, says Machiavel, I would choose them between 17 and 40;—to recruit an old one, I would always have them of 17. [*Art. de la Guerre, liv.* 1. *c.* 6.]

† We have received a particular account of the toilsome and incessant exercises of a body of 20,000 men, encamped at Meudon, in August 1806, under the pretext of rewarding their exploits in the north with a great festival at Paris. This was meant as a mask to their leaders' designs upon Prussia, which were then irrevocably determined. No festival was ever celebrated; but the troops were exercised for six hours a day in a deep and wet meadow, Buonaparte himself directing their manœuvres the whole time; and sometimes under a course of almost incessant rain and tempest.

‡ Machiavel [Art. de la Guer.] attributes all the civil wars and conspiracies of the Roman empire, after the time of Julius Cesar, to the maintenance of the generals in the same command.

its extraordinary hardships, it has also its peculiar rewards. Their prototypes of antiquity never more successfully reconciled the restraints of discipline and the license of pillage. Death is inexorably inflicted, as we have seen announced in their bulletins, for the slightest transgressions, when it is deemed expedient to enforce order: but we need not be told, that the signal for riot is often given by the general, and the abstinence of the soldier fully requited. After twenty years, he becomes of right a member of the legion of honour; and, as such, is entitled to a small pension for life. This long term, however, is anticipated in numerous instances. Individuals who signalize themselves are promoted on the field of battle, or singled from the ranks with the most encouraging solemnities; and sometimes, for very obvious reasons, invested with the insignia of the order, and dismissed to their homes with the booty they may have acquired.

By a law of the directory, no persons (with the exception of engineers) could become officers, who had not served three years in a subordinate capacity. The revolution naturally opened the way to merit; and, seconded by this admirable policy, has filled all the posts of their army with men who unite in themselves the qualities of the soldier with the excellences that qualify for command. It is not hazarding too much to assert, that nine tenths of the present French officers have sprung from the ranks. Educated in distant camps, they know no other country; and, habituated by long devotion to the trade of war, it has become their element and their passion. Their whole fortune is staked on the sword; and their attachment is therefore necessarily secured, under the *auspicious* influence of a leader, whose indefatigable ambition occupies them in their favourite pursuits, and whose *liberal impartiality* feeds the hope of preferment, and divides the fruits of conquest. To their credit and example is due much of that spirit, which, notwithstanding the causes of alienation heretofore detailed, seems to animate the whole frame of the army; and no small share of that portentous success which has attended the course of the French arms. Of the eighteen marechaux d'empire, fourteen have either emerged from the ranks, or ascended from the lowest employments.* Most of the generals of division,

* *Bessieres*, originally a common soldier, became in 1796 a captain of infantry in the army of Italy.—*Brune*, a printer at the commencement of the revolution, a member of the club of Cordeliers, and an intimate friend of Danton, commenced his military career in 1793.—*Augereau*, a private in the Neapolitan service in 1787, became soon after a fencing master at Naples; in 1792 entered as a volunteer in the army of Italy; and in 1794 was a general of brigade in the army of the Pyrennees.—*Bernadotte*, at the commencement of the revolution, a serjeant in the regiment *de royal marine;* in 1794 a general of division.—*Jourdan* enlisted in 1778, but left the service in 1784; was a shopkeeper at the commencement of the revolution.—*Kellerman* began his career as a simple hussar *in the regiment of Conflans.*—*Lasnes*, originally a common soldier, became, in 1795, adjutant of division in the national guard of Paris.—*Massena*, a subaltern in the Sardinian service at the beginning of the revolution, in 1793 became a general of brigade.—*Mortier*, a captain of a volunteer company in his native province at the same period.—*Ney, a hussar*, an adjutant general in 1796, after passing through all the inferiour grades.—*Lefevbre*, son of a miller of Alsace, became a serjeant in the regiment of French guards before the revolution.—*Perignon*, after acting as a justice of peace at Montesch, engaged in the army, and passed rapidly through all the subordinate grades, and, in 1794, commanded the army of the eastern Pyrennees.—*Soult* was a subaltern before the revolution, in a regiment of infantry, and an adjutant general in 1795.—*Murat* served originally in the constitutional guard of Louis XVI; became afterwards an officer in the 12th regiment of *chasseurs à cheval*, &c.—*Junot* began his career in 1792, as a grenadier in one of the volunteer battalions commanded by general Pille; and, in 1796, was one of the aids-de-camp of Buonaparte.

and others who hold the principal commands, have the same origin, and sufficiently prove that war is an experimental science, and that military renown is not the prerogative of birth, but the harvest of toil, or the bounty of fortune.

These men, whose duties have almost wholly estranged them from the refinements and indulgences of polished intercourse, retain all the leading features of their original department in life; a fierce and turbulent nature; a wild, irregular ambition; a total ignorance of the utility of civil laws, and a sovereign contempt for letters. As they partake largely of the prey, they zealously cooperate in the views of him, whom necessity or chance has led them to acknowledge as a master; but, should he be prematurely removed from the scene, we are not inclined to suppose, that his posthumous aims will be accomplished with equal fidelity. If it be true, as has been remarked, that military governments are at all times hostile to regular, monarchical succession, we can scarcely conceive the possibility of a quiet transmission of power in France, under her present circumstances. The military, of every description, are also said to be very unfit guardians for a legal constitution; and this observation is particularly applicable to the imperial generals, in whose minds no idea of subordination to civil authority, or of uncontested descent in the reigning family, could ever have taken root. The same daring enterprise which has born them forward to their present elevation would not suffer them to remain inactive, if supreme command were placed within their reach. They would tear the sceptre from a feeble hand, and dispute the prize with the same ferocious violence, and desperate resolution, with which they are now grasping at the dominion and the treasures of the rest of the world.

During their contentions, the continent might indeed be allowed to respire; but, independent of the established maxim, that a conquering nation must always be miserable, we confess that we can see no prospect of melioration for France herself. The establishment of freedom in that country must be viewed, we think, as hopeless; nor can it be denied, that the great bulk of the people, while they are incapable of the temperate enjoyment, are decidedly averse to the form of a popular government. Some expectation may be excited by the external frame of the electoral colleges and deliberative assemblies; but this is completely checked by an examination of their actual condition. They have no basis of ancient opinion to command respect; no reputation of consistency to inspire confidence; and have not, indeed, in the view of any branch of the community, an existence or a will, distinct from that of the throne to which they are appended. Under the shadow of a constitution still preserved, their election can never take place, unless ratified by the emperour; and is universally understood to depend, in practice, altogether on his nomination. *The princes of the blood*, and the great dignitaries of the state, are officially members of the *senate;* and to this body, the generals of division, detached from the foreign service, are regularly associated, so as to give them almost a numerical preponderance.*

* The meetings of the senate are always private. Strangers may be admitted to those of the legislative body. The latter was not once assembled during the whole of the last campaign in the north, the members not being perfectly sure. By the constitution, the judges were chosen for life; but, by a *senatus consultum* of 12th October, 1807, it was enacted, that they should thereafter undergo a probation of five years, and be then continued or dismissed at the option of the emperour. A commission was also created for the purpose of instituting an inquiry into the conduct of the judges in being, *in order that the emperour might remove such as were pronounced unfit for their stations.* In all political cases, and all cases of alleged fraud and eva-

The civil functionaries of every class have not only dishonoured the republican character, by a shameless apostacy, but prostitute the dignity of human nature itself, by assuming the trade of spies and informers. In all their discourses and writings, they inculcate the speculative doctrine of oppression, with as much zeal as their oppressors propagate, by conquest, its practical horrours. The mere wantonness of despotism could never exact, nor could the most inordinate vanity relish, a strain of adulation which would disgrace the worst periods of Roman degeneracy. We may fairly conclude, that the tyrant, who is known to require this tribute on all occasions, has it in view, not only to complete his savage triumph over the patriotism of France, but to bring the cause of freedom itself into general contempt, by exhibiting the base servility of those who so lately undertook *to vindicate the liberties of mankind* * There are, no doubt, as we have before affirmed, numbers who still cherish a preference for republican institutions; many who officiously promote the measures, in order to heighten the odium of the government; and a few who submit, with evident repugnance, to lend their personal weight to the consolidation of the new system. The first, however, will make no sacrifices of interest to principle; and the last can have little influence, when opposed to a majority, who have fortified their native dispositions by the habit of obsequiousness. The fabrick of a free state can never be reared by such hands, nor framed from such materials, as the populace of Paris, or the soldiery of the frontiers. Should the imperial seat be vacated within a short period of time, the legislative assemblies might, like the Roman senate, in their contest with Maximin, maintain a struggle with some firmness and vigour, but with no permanent means, and scarcely with the benefit of obtaining a choice of masters.

When we meditate upon the probable career of an army of 700,000 men,† greater than any which Rome ever maintained in the meridian of her power, and imbued with such moral and physical energies, our apprehensions for France vanish before the melancholy forebodings we are compelled to entertain for the nations of the continent. A nation of soldiers must be occupied. Plunder is their food, and will be sought wherever it is to be found. A people at war from principle, says Montesquieu, must necessarily tri-

sion, the trial *by jury* has been superseded by *special tribunals;* one of which is now established in each department, consisting of three judges *appointed by the emperour.*

* This feeling has been displayed strikingly in the bulletins from Spain, on the subject of the leading patriots of that country.

† Infantry of the line, 341,412; light infantry, 100,130; cavalry, 77,488; artillery, 46,489; engineers, 5,445; a total of *five hundred and fifty thousand nine hundred and sixty-four.* This is the official statement of 1805. Since that period, there has been an augmentation of at least *one hundred thousand,* exclusive of the foreign troops, Italian, Bavarian, &c. taken into the service. Gibbon remarks, that, in his time, France still felt the efforts which she had made in the reign of Louis the Fourteenth! According to Neckar's estimate, the expenses of the war department, before the revolution, were 124,650,000 francs. In 1805, they were stated at 271,500,000 francs. M. de Pommeller estimated the population of France at 25,065,883, in 1789. *Peuchet* now rates it at 34,976,313, exclusive of Tuscany. The ratio of this population to the territory, is 1,093 3-32 individuals to the square league;—*a condensation inferiour to* none but that of Holland. *The annual levies,* before the revolution, were stated at one seventeenth of *the bachelors* capable of bearing arms—estimated by M. de Pommeller at 600,000; but the actual proportion of the yearly levies, *at a very low calculation,* may be one seventieth of the whole male population between 20 and 40. Peuchet estimates this body at 7,612,690, for 1805; and allows that *sixty thousand* have been annually recruited since the commencement of the revolution; but the real number must be more than double. The directory called forth 200,000 at once in the year 1799.

umph, or be ruined. They will labour in their vocation, and never make peace but as conquerors. Such a temperament as we have ascribed to the chiefs and instruments of this conspiracy against mankind, is essentially at war with all the moral virtues and generous principles of our nature, with the gentle charities, as well as with the hoarded treasures of peace.

FROM THE MONTHLY REVIEW.

Communications to the Board of Agriculture, on Subjects relating to the Husbandry and internal Improvement of the Country. Vol. V. Part II. 4to. pp. 204.

ONE solitary paper occupies the whole of this second part: but it equals in value a host of ordinary communications, and merits a more detailed account than our miscellaneous pages will warrant us in bestowing. It is entitled:

An Essay on the Nature, Produce, Origin, and Extension of the Merino Breed of Sheep: to which is added, a History of a Cross of that Breed with Ryeland Ewes; describing their Qualities and Produce, and a successful Method of managing them. By Caleb Hillier Parry, *M. D. F. R. S.* &c.—On this subject, Dr. Parry is known to have bestowed particular attention, and to have established, by actual experiments, many important facts. He appears to have more completely studied the Merino breed of sheep than any other agricultural gentleman or philosopher in the united kingdom; and, in addition to the remarks with which he has previously favoured the publick, he here furnishes a most elaborate essay, containing the result of patient inquiry and long experience. All judicious readers will be gratified not only by the mass of useful information here collected by Dr. Parry, but by his methodical and luminous exhibition of it. After such indisputable traits of a mind truly philosophick, we require not his assurance that "he has been actuated by no motives of personal interest, but solely by the love of what has appeared to him to be the truth."

This essay is divided into two parts, in the first of which the nature, produce, origin, and extension of the Merino breed are considered, in order fully to meet and completely to solve the question proposed by the Board, which solicits information as to "the growth of wool from the Spanish breed of sheep, or from some cross between the Spanish and British breeds, in Great Britain; as to the advantages which may have attended such crosses in respect of wool, carcase, application of food, freedom from distempers, &c. and as to the most effective means of spreading this race of sheep." On each of these points, Dr. Parry has laboured to afford the Board an ample and satisfactory account; and he has even taken a wider range than the mere terms of the prize question require, in order to place the subject in all its amplitude before the reader. For the purpose of establishing the importance of this disquisition, the ingenious author, in the first place, states the quantity of the superfine wool imported into England from foreign countries in the years 1802, 1803, and 1804, to have been 18,467,718lbs. and from Spain alone, either in Spanish or neutral vessels, 15,307,718lbs. for which the clothiers paid 4,391,044l. and for which, supposing the merchant's profit to be 15 per cent. or 658,656l. the sum of 3,733,288l. went out of the kingdom.

Being dependent to so large an amount on a foreign state for the basis of our fine woollen manufactures, it becomes an object truly patriotick to n qu're into the most effectual mode of remedying this want; and, since he fine wool in question is the produce of a breed of sheep called in Spain

Merinos, to examine whether this breed cannot be domesticated, or a race obtained by crosses which shall answer the purpose of the manufacturer, and at the same time be valuable for its carcase. To satisfy the reader on these points, the author enters first into a history of the Merino breed, as it exists in Spain. According to this memoir, the number of these sheep now depastured in that country amounts to about five millions, which are divided into two classes, the *Trashumantes* and *Estantes*, i. e. the travelling and the stationary. Dr. P. thus describes their form and quality:

The Merino sheep in Spain is an animal below the middle size, comparatively with our native English breeds, and probably about that of the pure Ryeland, or old South Down. Though these sheep possess a great deal of picturesque beauty, and are exactly such as Rosa of Tivoli and others of the best painters have chosen as models, from which to decorate their immortal works, they are by no means furnished with that form, which modern fancy or experience has presumed to be inseparably connected with a disposition to early maturity and fatness. Thus they are, in general, rather high on their legs. Their heads are large, and their necks long. Their chests are contracted, and therefore they are sharp on the shoulders and flat sided. They are also narrow across the loins; whence it inevitably follows, that their hind quarter is straight and defective.

In all these respects, however, there is great difference in individuals of the same flock, and more especially in the general character of form in different flocks of this race.

The defects which I have mentioned are, however, in some degree counterbalanced by the peculiar quality of the skins of the Merino sheep, which are remarkably thin, soft, and loose, affording that evidence of a strong disposition to fatten, which many of our farmers call "proof."

There is another respect in which the skin of the Merino race differs from that of our native sheep. It is of a fairer hue, with a vivid tint of what is called carnation or flesh colour; bearing the same relation to that of our English breeds, as the skin of women with red or auburn hair does to that of those whose hair is dark brown or black. This tint is particularly conspicuous on those parts which are naturally free from wool, as the eye lids and lips.

With this peculiar condition of the skin is connected that quality of the fleece, which has hitherto been generally considered as the chief characteristick of the Merino race: I mean its fineness and flexibility, in which it is probably superiour to any other breed in the known world.

These animals seem absolutely buried in wool. It exists on their foreheads almost as low as the eyes, and on their cheeks; covers their bellies, and envelops their hind legs, and sometimes their fore legs, down to their very hoofs.

The length of the staple, or filaments, of wool is from two to somewhat more than three inches; being much alike on the shoulder and on the rump. The wool of the ram is generally esteemed the coarsest and longest; that of the ewe finest and shortest; and that of the wether, in both respects, between the two former.

These sheep are stated to produce, one with the other, five pounds of unwashed wool on the animal's back: but the loss of weight in scouring is very considerable. The grandees and societies of monks possess numerous flocks which are distinct varieties of this race, differing in the form and size of the carcase, and in the weight and fineness of the fleece. One of these, from a title in the family of count del Campo Alange, is called *Negrette*; others, *Infantado*, from the duke of that name; others, *Paular*, from the Carthusian monastery to which they belong; while others bear the appellation of the monasteries of *Guadeloupe* and the *Escurial*. These different breeds vary as to the proportion of yolk or grease which imbues all wool; but which is so superabundant in the Merino race, that it attaches to the fleece a great quantity of dust, earth, and other substances, and gives to it a dirty and unsightly appearance; yet, as the finest fleeces have the most yolk, the superficial darkness is no discouraging circumstance.

We are further informed that

The wool of the Merino sheep differs from that of all our breeds, in being of nearly an equal degree of fineness on the shoulder and on the rump. It grows more

thickly on the latter than on the former. The whole fleece is remarkably free from those white, opake, and coarser hairs, called by the French, jarre, and by us, kemps, stitchel hairs, or cat's-hairs. Those which here and there occur among Merino wool, are extremely short, and easily drop out during the process of manufacture, so as not to injure the fabrick.

It is remarked that if these sheep be slower in becoming adult, they live much longer than other known races; that they eat more indifferently of all sorts of food; and that it is a striking peculiarity, in which they differ from every breed of short-woolled sheep, that "while very few of the rams are polled, or have short snags, the majority have large spiral horns; and on the other hand, a horned Merino ewe is rarely to be found." The Spanish management of the flocks is too curious and entertaining, as a matter of history, to be omitted; and independently of its reference to the subject in question, it exhibits in a striking light the uncultivated state of this vast peninsula.

The Merino rams and ewes in Spain form separate flocks till the beginning of July; when those which are appropriated to the increase of the species are put together, and suffered to continue till the middle of August. The youngest rams so chosen are from two to three years old; and they continue in use till eight or nine. There seems to be little further ground of preference of one ram to another, except that the shepherds studiously avoid all those which have black spots on their bodies, or in their mouths. The period of union in the ewes is from two to seven years of age; though, sometimes, the two-tooth ewes are permitted to copulate. One ram is generally allotted to twenty or twenty-five ewes.

The ewe rarely produces more than one lamb at a birth. The lambs fall in November and December. The common custom is, immediately to kill one half of these; or even three-fourths, or more, if the season is bad, or there is any probability of want of food. This massacre is first practised on the males; of which, however, they take care to preserve a sufficient number to maintain the stock. In every hundred and eighty sheep the proportion is usually as follows: 100 ewes, 50 lambs, 25 wethers, and 5 rams. One reason why half the lambs are destroyed is, that each which remains may have the benefit of two nurses; for the Spaniards hold that the wool of the ewe would be injured both in quantity and quality, if she were exhausted by being obliged wholly to support her lamb. In order to produce this curious association, the shepherds take off the skin of a lamb which is killed, and wrap in it another which has already been suckled by its natural mother. The lamb so dressed they bring to the ewe which has been deprived of its young one; and which, deceived, as they say, by its appearance, allow the stranger to suck her. This operation they repeat three or four times in twenty-four hours; and, by next day, the animals generally take to each other of themselves. When the ewe is not readily deceived, and is in consequence refractory, they reduce her to order by tying her by the leg to a stake. The lambs continue to suck till the flock commences its journey to the mountains, which is when they are about five months old.

Very few, perhaps none, of the ram lambs are castrated. The wethers abovementioned are rams, cut at the age of six or seven years, when no longer fit for propagation. The mutton which they yield must, of course, be very bad. In fact, this breed is rarely eaten except by the shepherds themselves, or others connected with the flock; and by them usually in the mountains. So little, indeed, are these sheep considered as an article of food, that though immense flocks of them pass through or near Madrid twice every year, the beef and pork of that capital are supplied from the neat cattle and pigs of France, and the mutton from the sheep of Africa.

During the winter, the Merino flocks cover the plains of some of the warmest and most fertile provinces of Spain. Such are Valencia, Murcia, Arragon, Castile, La Mancha, Andalusia, Estremadura, the neighbourhood of Cadiz, &c. The herbage of these countries, which had been burnt up during the summer, begins to reappear on the first autumnal rains; after which it pushes so rapidly, and acquires such a degree of luxuriancy, that the shepherds are often obliged to fold their flocks, which they do by means of nets, in order to prevent their injuring themselves by feeding too hastily. Thus the herbage continues to shoot more or less during the whole winter. But as soon as, from the increasing heat of the sun and the constant consumption, the feed begins to fail, which takes place from the middle of April to the beginning of May, the flocks commence their journey to the mountains of Leon, Castile, Arragon, Na-

varre, Gallicia, Soria, Segovia, Cuencas, Albarazin, Burgos, the Asturias, &c. The tops of many of these mountains are in the winter covered with snow, but, in the summer enjoy only a refreshing coolness, and are well clothed with short herbage, admirably suited to the animals which they are designed to support. This herbage, according to the author of the Oryctographia et Zoologia Arragoniæ, chiefly consists of *festuca ovina* (sheep's fescue) *aira cristata* (crested hair grass) and *medicago lupulina* (melilot snail shell).

The beginning of the journey of each flock is in some measure regulated by the distance which it has to travel. Those which go from Estremadura to the Asturias have a march of at least 550 English miles. They proceed towards the mountains at the rate of from 5 to 16 miles a day, according to the pastures which they meet with by the way; and more slowly before than after shearing. A road is left for them, which is held, as it were, sacred, of 80 or 90 varas, or about 75 yards in breadth, often marked out or bounded by stones. There are several of these roads, through which pass different divisions of those immense flocks, so as to arrive about the same time at the place of their ultimate destination. This variety permits them also to choose or avoid, on their march, those districts of land which are sown with various kinds of grain, according as they have been gathered or not.

Each cavana, or great flock, has a mayoral, or principal shepherd; and each subdivision of such a flock, which, for convenience of travelling, consists of from 1000 to 1500, has its leading shepherd, who goes at its head, and is accompanied by two others, who proceed respectively on each flank. Each leader has for his companions one or more mansos, which are old wethers, or, what is more extraordinary, frequently old castrated goats, each of which is furnished with a large bell about its neck. These bell wethers being much caressed, become extremely docile; and are very useful in guiding the flocks to which they are attached.

The shepherds are accompanied with dogs; which are not, as ours of the present day, intended to regulate the movements of the flock, but are large and fierce mastiffs, like those of the Pyrenees, solely calculated to protect the sheep against wolves and robbers.

Other details are given respecting the method of administering to them a certain quantity of salt, of shearing (which is performed in vast encerradoes, or houses of reception, some of which are capable of containing 20,000 sheep at once) and of sorting the wool, which is divided into four parts, viz. refina, fina, tercera, and cahidas.

A set of bags, containing the whole of the three first sorts of a certain number of fleeces, is called pila, or a pile; and each bag is marked with the initial of the name, which expresses the quality of its contained wool, R. F. or T. The profits arising from the sale of the fourth sort, or cahidas, which is marked C. or K. is allotted for the consolation of souls in purgatory; an end to which no great aid is contributed by the merchants of England.

Dr. Parry might have remarked that the solicitude of the Spanish Catholicks for the deliverance of souls groaning in purgatory cannot be very great, when only the refuse of their wool is appropriated to this purpose: but it at the same time evinces the moderation of the priesthood, that they are satisfied with so small a tribute for so essential a service. A heretick, who doubts the efficacy of their prayers in this respect, may think that this little is too much: but if he could find his interest in purchasing the cahidas, he would not concern himself about the pious application of the money. As the case stands, the rescued souls owe no thanks to the English, who are too cunning to put themselves into the *material* purgatory of coarse cloths, for the chance of thinning *immaterial purgatory* of any of its spiritual inhabitants.

As England is not in so wild and uncultivated a state as Spain, it is a point worthy of notice that the migration of flocks from one extremity of the kingdom to the other is in no respect necessary to the health or productiveness of these animals; that the estantes or stationary flocks, yield fleeces equal in excellence to the best of the trashumantes; and that a system of laws called the mesta, prevails in Spain, which is injurious to its internal, agricultural improvement.

By this code are regulated the great body of flock masters, consisting of the most powerful grandees, the wealthiest private individuals, and the best endowed monasteries. The effect of such an association, under such a government, may easily be imagined. It has caused the establishment of numerous agrarian laws, the view of which has been, to secure to the corporation of the mesta, on their own terms, the whole produce of those lands, which are conveniently situated for the support of their flocks. Of these laws I have been able to learn only a few; but those few have been sufficient to authorize the conclusion, that they are equally contradictory, oppressive and impolitick. Who, in this country, would believe that a proprietor of sheep pastures in those devoted provinces of Spain, is not allowed to enclose or cultivate them; and that, at the end of a lease, he cannot reenter upon his own land; but is obliged, under any circumstances of improvement, to relet it without advance, and frequently with a diminution of rent? But it would be fruitless to expect in Spain a voluntary dereliction of a system, which, while it enriches an indolent aristocracy, supplies the government with an annual revenue of from twenty-eight to thirty millions of reals, or nearly 360,000l. sterling.

What will be the result of the present conflict in Spain, it is impossible to predict: but every fact respecting that country shows that it requires a complete regeneration; and we hope that a region, which is enriched with the bounties of nature, will not for ever be paralized by a most miserably short-sighted and inefficient government.

Having exhibited a sufficiently minute account of the nature, qualities, and Spanish treatment of the Merino race, Dr. Parry proceeds to inquire into the origin of this breed; and, in order to show that it has been attributed on no sufficient authority to England, he with great accuracy and judgment investigates the most material documents relative to the history of English wool: the quality of which, from the earliest mention of it to the latter end of the 17th century, affords no pretext for supposing that Spain in this instance was indebted to Britain. Whoever peruses this part of the essay will be fully convinced, by the weight of evidence which the indefatigable author has collected from all quarters, "that the notion of the English origin of the Merino breed of sheep, however it may have served to flatter the national pride, falls to the ground as soon as it is coolly and deliberately investigated."—As little reason does he find for imagining that they were imported into the peninsula from Africa, or that they originally existed in Spain. But, from adverting to the nature of the fine woolled sheep of Italy, and considering the coincidence of the breed in question with this race, he inclines to the belief that the Merinos were a colony from Italy, while Spain was a Roman province, and are in fact the same with the ancient Tarentine sheep of Apulia. After quotations from Pliny, Columella, Varro, and others, descriptive of the wool-bearing race in Italy, Dr. P. remarks:

It is impossible for any who reads this description, and who is acquainted with the improved Merino race of the present day, not to suspect that they are one and the same breed. Let us examine the evidence of this fact.

In the first place, there is not, so far as I know, throughout Europe, except in Italy itself, any breed of short woolled sheep now existing, besides the Merino, of which the males are horned, and the females not.

The sheep of Apulia and Calabria had anciently their summer and winter quarters, as in Spain.—

It was universally the practice among the Romans to give salt, with a view to promote appetite and thirst, to increase milk, and to improve digestion, in their sheep. One can hardly believe that this practice, which still exists in Italy, should from time immemorial have found its way into Spain, and into that country only, except by immediate communication.

I have mentioned that the Spanish flocks are frequently led by goats. We find from Tibullus that this was a common expedient among the Romans.*

* Dux pecoris hircus: duxerat hircus oves. Tibulli lib. ii. el. 1. v. 58.

Following Lasteyrie, Dr. P. next treats of the management of the Merino breed in Sweden, Denmark, Prussia, Hungary, Holland, Piedmont, France, the Cape of Good Hope, New Holland, &c. for the purpose of proving that this race produces wool equally fine with the best Spanish fleeces, in a great variety of climates. From the account of the Rambouillet flock, the following facts are collected:

It appears that the Spanish breed of sheep has been much improved in weight, and, probably, fineness of fleece, and has considerably increased in size, by having been naturalized in France. These valuable points have been accomplished chiefly in the four following ways:—

1st. By choosing for breeding the best and finest woolled rams and ewes.

2d. By never allowing them to propagate till they have attained their full growth; which, at the earliest, is not till nearly three years of age.

3d. By separating the weak from the strong; and,

4th. By giving them plenty of good food, and free air and exercise.

The result of the English experiments with this breed is "that the principal mode, in which the utility of the Merino race has been extended in England, has been by crossing our native breeds with Merino rams." By this observation, we are naturally conducted to the second part of the dissertation before us; in which we are presented with a complete *history of the Merino Ryeland breed of the author*. In the first place Dr. P. details the circumstances which led to the establishment of this breed, the number of his flock, his remarks on the effects of crossing, &c.

I have observed, says he, that the first mixture of the Merino with the Ryeland adds about one third, or somewhat less, to the fleece of the latter breed; without appearing to have much influenced the fineness of the filament. In after crosses, some curious circumstances occur. It is well known that the wool of the Merino and the Ryeland are both short, and the latter the shortest; neither of them usually exceeding, in the ewes, 2 1-2 inches in length. But the second or third mixture of these breeds carries the wool of the ewe to the length of four, and sometimes six inches, with great increase of weight, but still considerable coarseness in the filament. The fourth cross brings the wool to the Spanish standard, in point of fineness, and greatly reduces the length, leaving it still somewhat greater than that of the pure Merino. In every stage of the experiment, the wool is profited, either in quality or weight.

Not satisfied with commendations bestowed on the fleeces of his new breed, he ventures to call the attention of the publick to the value of the carcase of the Merino Ryeland sheep; and to state for the consideration of the Board, the superiour profit and convenience of small breeds of sheep. Very large and particularly very fat mutton is not adapted to small families, however advantageous it may be to the cook, "who receives as her perquisite, all which either the fire separates, or the dainty palate leaves uneaten, and sells it as tallow to the manufacturer of candles or soap." Of the Merino Ryelands, which were fatted and killed by the author, he thus speaks:—"those which I have so expended have been certainly superiour in flavour to any mutton which I have ever purchased, the fat approaching in taste and consistency to that of venison more than in any of the native English breeds. The wethers have reached from 12 to 15 1-2lb. the quarter; and from a two-shear sheep of the latter weight I have had 12 1-2lb. of loose fat."

Our readers will perhaps be surprised at this report, when they recollect that the carcase of the Merinos in Spain is so little esteemed as to be given as a perquisite to the shepherd: but by the cross with the Ryeland the flesh is improved, without any deterioration of the wool.

Distinct chapters follow, on the health and diseases of the new breed; on the obstacles to its extension; on its profit to the farmer and the country at

large; on its superintendence, including the age and season of propagation, quality, and quantity of food, &c. on the treatment of diseases; on the management of the fleece, and the season and mode of shearing; on the little judgment to be formed as to the wool or carcase of the full grown sheep, from those of the lamb; and on the mode of forming a flock which shall have a superfine wool on a beautiful carcase. We should, indeed, occupy a great number of our pages, if we were to copy all the valuable remarks which these chapters contain. The desideratum, however, which the last professes to assist us in obtaining, will surely justify one more extract.

In every point of view it is probable that a ram of the cross breed is as good for the purposes of propagation as an equally good Merino, and better than one which is inferiour. I hear a good deal of what is, by the unlearned, called nature; and by those who fancy themselves more learned, blood. But I would ask, what is the import of these words? Do they mean certain mysterious properties inherent in any one unmingled race? No. Our best race horses are only mongrels; that is, the produce of mongrel mares, either by pure Arabians, or by sires, which were equally mongrel with themselves. Yet we do not hesitate to consider King Herod or Highflyer as blood horses, just as much as if they had immediately descended from a pure Arabian sire and dam; and we should certainly have preferred them for propagation to any pure Arabian stallion, which was inferiour to them in valuable properties. These properties are very different in different animals. In a race horse, which is intended for running, they are speed and facility of breathing, united with only a certain degree of strength. In this animal, fatness would be one of the greatest evils. On the contrary, in a Leicester sheep, the marks of blood are smallness of bone, shortness of legs, and largeness of chest, all tending to fit him for indolence and obesity. The evidences of blood in a bull dog are very different from those in either of the former examples.

The word blood, then, is nothing more than an abstract term, expressive of certain external and visible forms, which, from experience, we infer to be inseparably connected with those excellences which we most covet.

The same principle is equally applicable to Merinos, and their descendants. There is no reason why a good fleece should be connected with a bad form; and I should presume that a pure Merino is not the more valuable because, at present, he happens generally to have a narrow hind quarter, sharp shoulders, and flat ribs. Those sheep, whether pure or mongrels, are best, and, therefore, in the philosophical and practical sense of the word, have most blood, which combine the finest fleeces with the most approved forms. Experience has shown that such rams of the mixed breeds, as well as our cross bred stallions, can transmit to their posterity all their excellences, whatever may be their names, or from what country soever they may have been derived; and he, who at this time, in beginning to breed, prefers the best pure Merino ram to the best Merino Ryeland, will probably find himself eight years behind in the experiment.

Such are the results of Dr. Parry's experience and philosophical inquiry.—A supplement is subjoined, containing actual measurements, by the help of a microscope, of the filaments of different kinds of wool; from which several practical inferences, respecting the Merino cross breeds, are deduced. We have also a statement of the wool produce per acre, on the author's farm, with other particulars; and the whole concludes with this unassuming and cautious paragraph:

Throughout this essay, there are various calculations, in some of which errours may, perhaps, hereafter be discovered. This would not, indeed, be greatly wondered at, were I to state the mode in which I have been compelled to compose the greatest part of the work. I have, however, in every instance, endeavoured to verify the result by different proofs; and I trust that no errour will be found, which is sufficiently important to affect the conclusion, which has any where been deduced.

That such an essay should obtain the premium is not matter of astonishment; but we should be greatly surprised if any person could read it without strongly feeling his obligations to the ingenious author, and his concurrence in the judgment of the Board.

FROM THE MONTHLY REVIEW.

Woman; or Ida of Athens. By Miss Owenson, Author of "The Wild Irish Girl," "The Novice of St. Dominick," &c. 4 vols. 12mo. 1*l.* 1*s.* London, 1809.

WITHOUT the least disposition to throw a doubt on Miss Owenson's originality, we have been led to conjecture, in the perusal of this interesting novel, that it was suggested by the *Corinna* of Madame de Stael. The fervid eloquence, with which that fair and tasteful guide pointed to her British lover the glorious antiquities of the Italian mistress of the world, appears to have excited, in the still more enthusiastick mind of the present writer, the wish to throw a richer lustre on the noble but melancholy remains of Athenian greatness; and to display the last faint struggles of valour, liberty, and genius, on the chosen spot which we must hail as their cradle and deplore as their grave. The manner of executing this part of her design is, in our opinion, better calculated to awaken the mixed sentiments of admiration and regret that are inspired by a survey of the solemn scene, than that which was adopted by her accomplished rival; who mingled, perhaps, with her animated descriptions, too much scholastick information, and too much of the formality of a *Cicerone*. Miss Owenson, on the other hand, never stops to detail circumstances or copy smaller features, but labours successfully to produce the general impression resulting from a remembrance of all the noble acts which have illustrated her lofty scenes; places before our eyes the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and the temple of Theseus, without particularizing their situations, their proportions, or their ornaments; and leads us to the plain of Marathon, or the airy heights of Hymettus, without a word concerning their position, their extent, or their topography. We may add, likewise, that she has incorporated the local emotions with a far more striking and probable story than that of Corinna; that her heroine is a more attractive woman; and that her hero is a hero in good earnest.

A preface rapidly describes the Athenian character as exemplified in the several states by the pen of history; and traces, through all its various changes, that ardent love of liberty which seems inseparable from great sensibility of heart, and peculiar vivacity of imagination. The views, which have specifically led to the creation of this work, will be seen in the following passages;

According to the testimony of all modern travellers, the complexional character of the Greek women is now, as anciently, highly favourable to that poetick idea of female fascination so bewitching to the fancy, and to that moral view of female influence so gracious to the mind. But that nice power of development which would justify the intentions of nature in their favour, is denied them by the oppression of the government under which they live, and the ignorance of those with whom they associate. And many a fair Leontium, and many a charming Aspasia, may still exist in Athens, unconscious of the latent powers of their own ardent minds, and ignorant that creatures like themselves once gave the spell of sweet persuasion to the profoundest truths of philosophy, mingled the graces of love with the cares of legislation, and charmed while they inspired those who enlightened, while they commanded, the world.

The Greek women are still lovely in their forms, as those exquisite models of human beauty bequeathed by the genius of their ancestors to the imitation of unborn ages: and their playful but indolent dispositions, their tenderness and their ardou flow from the same source that lends their manner its animated softness, that gives their eye its languid brilliancy.

I must also confess that the historick retrospect and existing political situation of Greece in general, and of Athens in particular, held out a lure to the imagination, which I found too difficult to resist.

To that country in which the light of political prosperity shines with a pure and cloudless lustre, the heart of the philanthropist will impulsively turn with beneficent

satisfaction; but the nation which mourns over its sufferings, without the power to redress its wrongs, which faintly struggles in an interval of hope against that oppression which would impose a permanent despair, must eventually give rise to a romance of incident, to a boldness of character, and a vicissitude of event, which bestows on the wildest fiction of the novelist the sanction of probability and the authority of fact.

Miss Owenson remarks, and the circumstance assuredly is of a very striking nature, that in these late ages of the world, "it was reserved for the rude descendants of those barbarous Scythians, looked on by the ancient Greeks with such profound contempt, to arouse their descendants from the gloomy dream of their long endured capturity." "The Russians determined on ravishing the classick isles of the Egean and the continent of Greece from the Porte, and, as they asserted, of restoring the republicks of Solon and Lycurgus."

They, indeed, found no difficulty in inspiriting the Greeks in defence of their natural rights, and for the recovery of their ancient liberties. The same love of freedom, the same vivacity of feeling, and ardour of enthusiasm, was found among many of the oppressed descendants of the heroes of Marathon and Platea as distinguished their immortal ancestors; and, when their eager eyes beheld the Russian fleet doubling cape Matapan, the Archipelago thought itself free. A beam of their ancient glory seemed to shine on the brow, and warm the heart of the Greek patriot; but the beam, though bright, was illusory; and, like the faint, dissolving lustre of an autumnal iris, it died away in clouds and storms. Deserted by their allies, subdued by their tyrants, the patriots of Greece were only rescued from national slavery by the victorious sabres of those who imposed it. Thousands were massacred; and it was a point in debate in the Ottoman council, whether the whole race should not be exterminated.

It is on historick documents, such as these, that I have ventured to depict incidents of heroism and sentiments of patriotism, as still existing among the Greeks. And that I have supposed, to use their own touching and pathetick words: "That in Greece is still to be found a people glowing with the love of freedom, whom the iron yoke of barbarism has not quite degraded, and who have constantly before their eyes the images of their heroes, by whose example their warriours are still to be animated." *

From these materials, joined with some of the more ordinary ingredients of romance, the readers of *The Wild Irish Girl* will easily conceive that such powers as are possessed by this author cannot fail to have produced a most affecting story. They will, however, possibly suspect (as we also have imagined) that the leading characters of the two groups, and the methods of grouping them, bear considerable resemblance to each other; that the two heroes are essentially the same; that the uncle of Ida is in many points too nearly identified with the Irish chieftain; and that the Archondessa is only the princess of Inismore with a new title and a more highly cultivated mind. They will also perceive a secret assimilation constantly made between the fallen state of Athens, and the degraded inferiority of our sister kingdom; and they will lament that the wise and just political doctrines of liberty and toleration, which should be taught only with a weight and a dignity corresponding to their importance, are fruitlessly thrown away in impeding the progress of a novel.

The story, on the whole, is excellent, but it is not very skilfully related. The first volume ought to have been the third; and the incidents contained in it might have been much compressed. A very bad effect is produced by going back from the departure of the Englishman to the far more interesting events of Osmyn's love and rebellion, which appear tedious from our knowledge that they are nearly two years old at the time of our first introduction to the characters. When Ida is in England, she loses some dignity

* See the memorial of the patriot Greeks, in the life of Catherine of Russia.

of character by the thoughtless volatility with which she mingles in the gay scenes of the world; the second uncle is brought on the stage rather too abruptly; while his strange and unexpected discovery of his niece, and his equally sudden disappearance afterward, impart to her newly acquired wealth the character of a fairy gift, the accumulation of a golden shower, or the produce of Fortunatus's wishing cap. We would also hint to this lady, as well as to many of her fellow labourers in the same species of writing, that romance has lately been somewhat too familiar with hard hearted landlords, bailiffs, and pawnbrokers. The example of Fielding's Amelia is no justification, because the nature of her character and history made the circumstance unavoidable.

To the language of these volumes we must offer the same objections which have occurred to us in examining Miss Owenson's former productions; and we are the more anxious to deter her, by our friendly warning, from the dangers of extravagance and affectation, because she is naturally endowed with great sensibility to the charms of style, and displays, in general, a vigorous and lively, though unchastised, eloquence. A very extraordinary fact is mentioned with regard to the author's velocity of composition.

I have already written almost as many volumes as I have [lived] years.* I have been necessitated to compose with great rapidity, and my little works have been always printed (from an illegible MS.) in one country while their author was the resident of another.†

This hasty execution is not absurdly vaunted as furnishing a claim to applause, but is modestly stated in order to account for inaccuracies. It is, however, an inadmissible plea. Every writer may justly unite two objects, present popularity, and permanent reputation. Though it is too common to sacrifice the latter to the former, it is perfectly clear that even the former will be soon destroyed by an excessive anxiety to secure it, when the publick find that advantage is taken of their indulgence to deluge them with crude and careless compositions. Why, however, will not the fair author condescend to write a legible hand? and why may she not so arrange her visits to England, as to be present while her compositions pass under the printer's hands? Some of the strange phrases which swarm in these pages may perhaps be referable to such omissions. But they, like the neglect which produced them, are still chargeable on the author. Such is the misspelling of *Anadyomene;* the "*apparent* (for *transparent*) *tissue of woven air;*" *sensurous* for *sensuous*, &c. but it often happens, as in these two latter mistakes, that the word intended is almost as bad as the word erroneously employed; and if we were told that the author, speaking of delicate limbs, did not mean to say that their "extremities were rosed with *flowing*," but with *glowing* "hues," we should convict her, on her own confession, of meaning to use an expression which is alien to the English tongue. Why disfigure and overload our copious language with "are spondent," "a comminglement," "to retribute," "to obliviate," and other words equally unnecessary, ungraceful, and unclassical? It is an important, though perhaps

* The "Wild Irish Girl" was written in six weeks; the "Sketches" in one; and "Woman," though I had long revolved its plan and tendency in my mind, and frequently mentioned it in society, was not begun until the 20th of last July. It was written at intervals, in England, Wales, and Ireland, and almost always in the midst of what is called the world. It was finished on the 18th of October, and is now printed from the first copy.

† It is a fact that can be attested by my publishers that I never corrected a proof sheet of any one of my works, nor ever resided in England during their printing or publication.

an ungallant and rather a pedantick admonition to female writers, to tell them that words derived from the learned languages are edge tools, and cannot safely be handled by the unskilful. Any attempt to alter them may betray these fair adventurers, when not extremely well versed in their origin and in the principles on which they are compounded, into mere nonsense, or perhaps into downright contradiction. To be perfectly versed in the powers and the delicacies of their native tongue is no mean exercise of the faculties; it is a much safer ambition, and not a less honourable praise.

FROM THE MONTHLY REVIEW.

Leontine de Blondheim, &c. By Augustus Von Kotzbue. Translated (into French) from the German, with Notes, by H. L. C. 3 vols. 12mo. London. 1808.

THOUGH we had assisted in the mournful ceremony of conducting *Clara d'Albe* to the peaceful tomb, we were frequently tempted to believe, while perusing the pages of M. Kotzbue's novel, that we had again encountered that lovely heroine, under the name of *Leontine de Blondheim*, transplanted to the sombre forests of Esthonia from the fertile and sunny plains of Touraine. Both are married at an early age, to men much older than themselves, in deference to paternal authority; both are disappointed in their matrimonial prospects, and feel that vacuity of mind which leaves ample room for the impressions of unlawful love; to both, an amiable and interesting admirer presents himself, and virtue and happiness are endangered by seductive opportunity. The melancholy fate of the ardent French beauty is already known to our readers: but the Russian lady is saved at one time by her own prudence, and at another by a very seasonable *heureusement*.—We have resolved, however, not to attempt any analysis of this story, which is too complicated, and too replete with incidents, to be susceptible of abridgment within our limits. It will suffice to observe, that the outline is much more ably filled up than in the parallel novel to which we have alluded; and that the state of Leontine's affections is, on the whole, very naturally traced and explained on consistent principles. Some strange sentiments, some coarse reasonings, and some whimsical refinements of feeling, do indeed occasionally appear, after the usual manner of German tragi-comedy; and a circumstance is introduced of the most revolting nature, and wholly unnecessary to the conduct of the story, of which it infects all the parts and poisons the conclusion. The reader must make an effort to forget this disgusting ingredient, before he can allow himself to be pleased by the otherwise attractive materials which are provided for his entertainment.

We propose here to exhibit this versatile author in a point of view in which he has not been often seen. His plays, his romances, his sentimental journies, and the childish biography of his early youth, have invested him with a notoriety which, if not absolutely discreditable to him, has always bordered on the ridiculous. The letter which we now translate will prove him to be capable of fulfilling, with sobriety and discrimination, the important duties of a moral instructer. The occasion of writing it appears sufficiently on the face of it. An aged clergyman addresses to his beloved pupil the advice which his situation and opinions appear to require.

You give me pain, my young friend. Your letters had already made me suspect what is confirmed by those of a respectable man who lives at Revel, and is much attached to you. You have not a good reputation; and, which is worse, you do

not appear to regret it; doubtless because you believe that your beneficent innovations* and your noble ideas have drawn that misfortune upon you. Do not deceive yourself: in this world, good people are sometimes ridiculed, but seldom are hated. I think I can perceive the cause of the hatred which you have incurred, in the inclination to satire which I have, from your earliest youth, vainly combated. You cannot hear any thing either false or absurd, without immediately exposing it, and always with a degree of bitterness. Already this unfortunate fault has frequently endangered your life; yet, the moment afterward, you again indulge it with as much freedom as before.

Allow your old master once more to enjoy his ancient privileges; allow him to recall to you a proverb which says, that the world rather pardons a bad action than a good joke [*bon mot*]. Suffer fools to pursue their course with impunity, as you let a drunken man pass you in the street without even a thought of diverting yourself at his expense.

If an epigram could do any good, if you could say, I sacrifice myself to make others better—But no, on the contrary you do but irritate them. Fools as they were, you change them at once into obstinate and vindictive fools, and your recompense is a bad name.

I hear you answer: "What does that signify to me? I act well; and if I am ill treated, so much the worse for those who misunderstand me. I speak and act according to my own conviction"

My young friend, this is not enough. A bad character, even when undeserved, is always a great evil. Certain moralists pretend, it is true, that virtue ought to suffice for itself, without even caring about all that surrounds it. Such maxims belong to inexperience or selfishness. Such virtue is fit only for the deserts of the Thebaid.

Are you really better than other men? then make virtue amiable by your example, though it should cost you the sacrifice of a few *bon mots*, and some lively and ingenious sayings. The esteem of your fellow citizens,—the confidence of the unfortunate,—the friendship, in a word, of a multitude of persons who dread wit only when it is not joined to goodness—these will be your reward.

But you will say to me—"I am young and rich, and I find resources enough in myself, to dispense with other men: why then should I submit to them?" Ah! dear Maurice (permit me still to call you by that name which preserves to me the rights of a father over you) no man, however powerful, can say on this earth, that he does not stand in need of other men; and on how many occasions may the judgment of the world be afflicting in its consequences! Stop at the first example which offers; suppose for a moment that mademoiselle *de Blondheim* had not been to you an object of indifference; suppose that you had perceived in her the woman destined to form the happiness of your life; and that you had owed to your bad reputation alone the refusal which your mother has received. Consider now, what influence that reputation, of which you seem to think so slightly, might have on the whole remaining part of your life.

I should be fearful of offending you, if I endeavoured to justify this letter. Maurice knows my paternal tenderness towards him. He forms, with my daughter, all that I hold most dear and love best in the world. I must, then, be permitted to speak to him with frankness, when I tremble for his happiness.

His young friend stands forward in defence of his own opinions, and displays much spirit, ingenuity, and good sense: but all the distresses which afterward persecute him result from the neglect of his reputation. The whole correspondence between these two friends, in the unimpassioned parts of the work, abounds with just observation. We select but one remark more.

O my friends, what a fault is committed in the education of men! Who even thinks of teaching them, in childhood, to distrust their first judgments? Yet tell me what it is that determines their first impressions. Here, it is a face that displeases us: there, it is a little awkwardness of manner, perhaps only a dress which is not quite fashionably cut; we have heard something to the disadvantage of one, and judge by what we hear; another drops a word in opposition to our ideas, and because his opi-

* *Wallerstein*, to whom this letter is addressed, had enfranchised all his vassals. We are happy to find, in a note by the translator, that all the nobles of Esthonia and Livonia have lately concurred in the same measure. *Rev.*

nions are not ours, we deem him more wicked than ourselves; for it is thus that men think—their own course is alone right, their own understanding is alone correct, their own reason is alone infallible; and all of us, like the tyrant of antiquity, have our bed of iron, to which every man must conform, on pain of being mutilated.

Notwithstanding the many faults of Kotzbue, few authors have been gifted with a more powerful talent of affecting the feelings by minute traits, and sudden turns of reflection. The regret of Leontine, a girl scarcely fifteen years old, when she leaves the protection of her indulgent father, with a husband to whom she feels no strong attachment, and her childish exultation at the idea of entertaining that beloved father as a guest in her family, are here represented with a degree of delicate pathos which rivals the pencil of Mackenzie. Her faded appearance, also, after three years of unhappy marriage, is contrasted with the rosy health and lively *naïveté*, with which she had before graced the gay circles of youth, fashion, and beauty, in a manner exquisitely touching. In truth, it would be scarcely too much to assert that Kotzbue is deficient in none of the requisites for forming a novelist of the highest order, except *good taste;*—but to the production of a complete and lasting effect, how fatal is that single deficiency!

FROM THE MONTHLY REVIEW.

The Life of the Right Honourable Horatio Lord Viscount Nelson, K. B. Vice Admiral of the White Squadron of his Majesty's Fleet, Duke of Bronte in farther Sicily, &c. &c. &c. By Mr. Harrison. 8vo. 2 Vols. 1*l.* 3*s.* Boards.

ENTHUSIASM in the service of his country, and for the honour of his profession, was the distinguishing and paramount feeling of Nelson. In the pursuit of this object no danger terrified him, no obstacle deterred him, no consequence restrained him. Life was desirable only as it tended to this duty, and death was welcome if occurring in the discharge of it. All the particulars here recorded, concerning his command while protecting the two Sicilies. Malta, &c. eminently illustrate and confirm this truth, and afford, perhaps, an unparalleled display of exertion and anxiety. "Is his Majesty's service," said he, "to stand still for an instant?" Few constitutions, we believe, could long support such a mind as he possessed, and such fatigues as the incessant workings of that mind created; *his* bodily frame certainly was too weak for the task, and suffered severely from the effects of it.

That he considered the cause, moreover, in which he was engaged, to be just, and that he deemed the views of his government to be laudable, must be argued from a remarkable passage in a letter to lord Minto: "My conduct, as your's, is to go straight and upright. Such is, thank God, the present plan of Great Britain; at least, as far as I know: for, if I thought otherwise, I should not be so faithful a servant to my country, as I know I am at present."

A degree of irritation, and the most acute feeling, naturally attended a temperament of this kind; and we discover repeated instances of those sensations in his expressions respecting sir Sidney Smith, whose appointment in the Levant seemed to interfere with his own command, as well as respecting his treatment by the Admiralty on various occasions, and on being superseded by a senior officer. The excess of his exertions, the unfortunate issue of the contest, and his disappointments, call from him the observation, in a letter to lord Spencer, "you will see *a broken-hearted* man. *My spirit cannot submit, patiently.*"

Vanity was undoubtedly another leading feature in his character, and perhaps as inseparable from it as irritation. In a letter to lady Nelson, on

occasion of a storm and much danger, he himself says, "I believe it was the Almighty's goodness to check *my consummate vanity!*" Yet in a future letter to earl Spencer, on occasion of honours granted to him at Naples, he deprecates the idea of "one spark of vanity," and says: "God knows my heart is among the most *humble* of the creation." Again, on the other hand, he is represented by his biographer as venting the murmurs of ambition, against the sparing grant of a *baronial* coronet, after the battle of the Nile. At an early period, his determination to become eminent was almost prophetically announced. When first acting with sir William Hamilton at Naples, "sir William," said he, "you are a man after my own heart: you do business in my own way! I am now only a captain; but I will, if I live, be at the top of the tree." Again, writing to his sister, he observed: "They have not done me justice in the affair of Calvi; but never mind; *I'll have a Gazette of my own.*"—We know it to be a fact, moreover, that after the action off St. Vincent's, when a friend was complimenting him on his conduct, talking of the honours which must be conferred on him, and suggesting that he would be created a baronet: "No," said Nelson, looking displeased and contemptuously, and placing his hand on the left side of his coat, "if I have done any thing that deserves reward, let them give me what will *mark the action.*"—By those, indeed, who knew lord Nelson, no doubt can be entertained of his attachment to personal distinctions, and to the exteriour marks of them. His death itself may probably be ascribed to this source.—Much may be said on the subject of honorary and personal distinctions. Where they have been deserved, they can neither be *grudged* nor disapproved: yet it is not desirable that they should be the principal stimulus to exertion, since purity of motive would thus be destroyed; and however the man who seeks and who ostentatiously displays them may be justified, he who with equal claims to them still contemns and rejects them will ever be deemed the greatest character.

His extreme hatred of the French, as a people, was another trait. In above a dozen instances in these volumes, we have such expressions as the following: "Down, down with the French:"—"I have an antipathy to Frenchmen:" "the scoundrels of French:"—"there is no way of dealing with a Frenchman but to knock him down." "Down, down with the damned French villains! Excuse my warmth; but my blood boils at the name of a Frenchman. I hate them *all*, Royalists and Republicans." &c. &c.

If he was nationally illiberal, however, his *soul* was *generous* (as he himself singularly calls it in a letter to earl Spencer) and his heart and purse were ever open to his friends. On being voted 10,000*l.* by the East India Company, he immediately made out drafts for 500*l.* each to his father, his two brothers, and his two sisters; his unvaried and unbounded solicitude for his *band of brothers*, as he called the captains of his squadron at the Nile, and for all his brave companions at all times, is strikingly amiable;* and his zeal for the common cause, while at Naples, induces him to declare that, sooner than the operations of war shall be stagnant from a want of money, he will sell the property of Bronte,† and the magnificent presents

* A prominent instance of this sensibility to the interest and reputation of his brother officers occurs in his well known letter to the lord mayor of London, August 1, 1804, in which he refused the profered thanks of the city for having so long blockaded Toulon, because he denied the fact of the *blockade*, and because the other officers of the fleet were not included in the vote. See Vol. II. p. 423.

† Vol. II. p. 144. Mr. Harrison strongly represents the reluctance of lord Nelson to receive this title and estate as a reward from the king of the two Sicilies, for the dis-

which had been made to him by different sovereigns. His kindness of heart also appears in a letter relative to the Bronte estate [see Vol. II. p. 243] which he commences by saying: "My object at Bronte is to make the people happy, by not suffering them to be oppressed; and to enrich the country, by the improvements of agriculture."

Decision and promptitude were also well known attributes of lord Nelson, and none perhaps can be more important and more requisite in a commander. These he not only displayed in the hour of battle, but on occasions of deliberation, he resolutely abided all consequences, in following what he conceived to be his duty for the good of the service. When he was in Naples-Bay, and was desired, by lord Keith, then commander in chief in the Mediterranean, to detach to him at Minorca a part of his own squadron, he did not scruple to disobey the order, "till the safety of his Sicilian majesty's kingdom might be secured:" but he wrote immediately to lord Keith, to the admiralty, and privately to lord Spencer (then at the head of the board) in justification of himself; and though he knows, he says, that he *must be subject to trial for his conduct*, he relies on the uprightness of his intentions, and submits to the judgment of his superiours. In like manner, he strongly, though ineffectually, urged general sir James St. Clair Erskine to despatch troops to the relief of Malta, though he was aware that particular circumstances prevented sir James from conceiving himself to be warranted in such a step; nobly adding, however: "I wish if possible to take all the responsibility." His still more palpable disregard of orders, which he disapproved, was notoriously exemplified in the affair at Copenhagen: where he *would not see* a signal which was reported to him, but the *complexion* of which his ardent and sanguine mind could not tolerate.—This subject of obedience to orders is too delicate and important for our discussion of it in this place: we only record lord Nelson's conduct, and refer to his opinion, as generally expressed in a letter to lord Spencer. [See Vol. 2. p. 191.]

Political discernment also was displayed on many occasions, by the admiral, in his judgment of men and his anticipation of events. When he saw the renowned general Mack at Naples, he observed: "General Mack cannot move without five carriages. I have formed my opinion. I heartily pray I may be mistaken;"—and when at a review, and sham fight, Mack's troops were by a blunder completely surrounded by the supposed enemy, Nelson exclaimed: "This fellow does not understand his business."—Of the Neapolitan minister, the marquis de Gallo, he said: "He admires his riband, ring, and snuff-box so much, that an excellent *petit maitre* was spoiled when he was made a minister."—Of sir John Acton he usually speaks in high terms: "He has the wisest and most honest head in this kingdom"—"Acton and Belmonte seem to be the only uncorrupted men in the kingdom,"—but afterwards he changed his opinion, and said: "Acton has, I am almost convinced, played us false."

As to professional conduct and ability, though these are points of the first importance, they require from us no illustration; since the actions of the hero have so splendidly illuminated them. We shall only add that, besides the judgment and daring which they displayed, he was remarkable for the diligence and rapidity of all his movements, whether refitting in port, or when in chace, or in combat. He adopted the best of all methods, that of personal example; and as he himself observed, he did not say "*Go*," but "*Let us go.*"

charge of his duty to his own sovereign: asserting that he yielded only to the representation of the necessity that the former prince should adequately testify his gratitude.

In a domestick point of view, a shade is cast over this sketch by the disagreement of lord Nelson and his lady; a subject on which we feel ourselves incompetent to speak, and which we should have deemed it indecorous to introduce, had not Mr. Harrison chosen to treat it with more freedom than any other point which comes before him, except one that is intimately connected with it, viz. the character and conduct of captain Nisbet, lady Nelson's son by her first husband. In his preface, alluding evidently to this topick, the author declares that he "has fearlessly endeavoured freely to investigate transactions of the utmost delicacy in private life;" a fearlessness which does not appear with the best grace on such a topick, especially when it is seen in that instance alone. A difference of temper and sentiment is ascribed to lady Nelson, which, united to her reception of disadvantageous reports concerning some of the connexions of her husband, created estrangement, and finally a separation. Lord N. then lived wholly in the society of sir W. and lady Hamilton; to the latter of whom it is universally known that he was enthusiastically attached, and to whom the biographer asserts he would certainly have been united after Sir W's decease if he had outlived lady Nelson. Perfect purity, however, is ascribed to this attachment; though it is admitted, in the only passage which recognises a failing in lord Nelson's character, that he was not abstemious in regard to women; and which we shall quote, since it contains some mention of the female child so mysteriously recommended in his will.

Among the amiable and interesting group at Merton, was Miss Horatia Nelson Thompson, lord Nelson's adopted daughter, then an infant about five years of age. What real affinity, if any, that charming child may bear to his lordship, is a secret at present known by few; and, as it should seem, by none who feel at liberty to divulge it. She was, certainly, an object of his constant and most tender regard; and, though the family in general appear disinclined to believe her his daughter, it seems highly probable that she is so. Should this prove to be the fact, it cannot greatly affect his lordship's reputation; who, it is not to be dissembled, though by no means ever an unprincipled seducer of the wives and daughters of his friends, was always well known to entertain rather more partiality for the fair sex than is quite consistent with the highest degree of Christian purity. Such improper indulgences, with some slight addiction to that other vitious habit of British seamen, the occasional use of a few thoughtless, profane expletives in speech, form the only dark specks ever yet discovered in the bright blaze of his moral character.

We shall not further dwell on family disputes which are not properly before us, and are here certainly represented *ex parte*. A more important point of investigation, in which the publick conduct of lord Nelson was implicated, we have not yet touched in this place; we mean his refusal to ratify the treaty with the Neapolitan insurgents: but, as Mr. Harrison's report of this affair has excited a specifick vindication from captain Foote, who was principally concerned in it, we shall reserve our remarks for a succeeding article, in which captain F's tract will be considered.

On the point in question in the ensuing paragraph, we can say nothing: but since we know that the imputation here intimated has been made, and the contradiction here stated is so peremptory, it seems but justice to transcribe it:

Among the various gross imputations against his lordship, which the future historian may find registered in some of the preserved, licentious, publick journals of blended facts and falsehoods, and inconsiderately adopt, is that of the hero of the Nile's having been so addicted to gaming, that he lost, at a single sitting, the whole he had gained, both pay and prize money, during the year of that memorable victory: whereas, in truth, his lordship was so extremely adverse to this vice, that he had scarcely ever, in his life, entered any one of the fashionable gaming-houses; nor ever, as he repeatedly assured his friends, whom these base reports induced particularly to ask the question, won or lost even the trifling sum of twenty guineas!

Hitherto we have been chiefly occupied with the features of the very uncommon portrait which we have been contemplating; but we shall now advert to a few passages from the work which relate to incidents and transactions.

It has been remarked, that the official letter from sir John Jervis, after the action off St. Vincent's, was extremely sparing of commendation on the officers of the squadron, and especially in regard to the astonishing achievements of commodore Nelson. Mr. Harrison, however, has obtained lord St. Vincent's permission to print extracts from a *private* letter which he wrote to the first lord of the admiralty, to the following effect:

The correct conduct of every officer and man in the squadron, on the 14th instant, made it improper to distinguish one more than another, in my publick letter; because I am confident that, had those who were least in action been in the situation of the fortunate few, their behaviour would not have been less meritorious: yet, to your lordship, it becomes me to state, that captain Troubridge, in the Culloden, led the squadron through the enemy in a masterly style, and tacked the instant the signal flew; and was gallantly supported by the Blenheim, Prince George, Orion, Irresistible, and Colossus. The latter had her fore and fore topsail yards wounded, and they unfortunately broke in the slings in stays; which threw her out, and impeded the tacking of the Victory.

Commodore Nelson, who was in the rear on the starboard tack, took the lead on the larboard, and contributed very much to the fortune of the day; as did captain Collingwood: and, in the close, the San Josef and San Nicolas having fallen foul of each other, the Captain laid them on board; and captain Berry, who served as a volunteer, entered at the head of the boarders, and commodore Nelson followed immediately, and took possession of them both. The crippled state of these ships, and the Captain, entangled as they were, and that part of the enemy's fleet which had been kept off in the morning—as described in the publick letter—joining at the instant, it became necessary to collect the squadron, to resist an attempt to wrest these ships, the Salvador del Mundo, and San Ysidro, from us, which occasioned the discontinuance of the action.

Previously and subsequently to the action off the Nile, admiral Nelson suffered much inconvenience, and the service was much impeded, from not having any frigates attached to his squadron; a deficiency which has occurred in other instances, with similar bad consequences. In a private letter to lord Spencer, which is, throughout, worthy of notice, he commences by referring to this circumstance.

MY LORD, *Mouth of the Nile, 9th August*, 1798.

Were I to die this moment, *want of frigates* would be found stamped on my heart. No words of mine can express what I have suffered, and am suffering, for want of them. Having only La Mutine brig, I cannot yet send off captain Capel, which I am very anxious to do: for, as an accident may happen to captain Berry, it is of some importance, I think, for your lordship to be informed of our success as speedily as possible. If the king of Naples had joined us, nothing at this moment could prevent the destruction of the store ships, and all the transports, in the port of Alexandria; four bomb vessels would burn the whole in a few hours: but as I have not the means, I can only regret the circumstance. I send you a packet of intercepted letters, some of them of great importance; in particular, one from Buonaparte to his brother. He writes such a scrawl, as no one not used to it can read: but, luckily, we have got a man who has wrote in his office to decypher it. Buonaparte has differed with his generals here: and he did want—and, if I understand his meaning, does want, and will strive to be, the Washington of France. "*Ma mere*" is evidently meant for "*my country.*" But, I beg pardon: all this is, I have no doubt, well known to administration. I believe, our victory will, in its consequence, destroy this army; at least, my endeavours shall not be wanting. I shall remain here for some time. I have thought it right to send an officer (by Alexandretta, Aleppo, and Bussorah) over land, to India, with an account of what I have gathered from these despatches: which, I hope, will be approved. I have sent a copy of my letter to the board of control, that they may give the necessary directions for paying the officers' bills. If it should have gone to the East India Company, I hope that board will forward it. Ever believe me your lordship's most obliged and obedient servant,

HORATIO NELSON.

The deplorable state of publick affairs at Naples in 1798 is thus depicted also in a letter to lord Spencer:

I see the finest country in the world, full of resources; yet, without enough to supply the publick wants. All are plundering, who can get at publick money or stores. In my own line, I can speak. A Neapolitan ship of the line would cost more than ten English ships fitting out. Five sail of the line must ruin the country. Every thing else is, I have no doubt, going on in the same system of thieving. I could give your lordship so many instances of the greatest mal-conduct of persons in office, and of those very people being rewarded. If money could be placed in the publick chest at this moment, I believe it would be well used; for the sad thing in this country is, that although much is raised, yet very little reaches the publick chest. I will give you a fact—When the order of Jesuits was suppressed in this country and Sicily, they possessed very large estates. Although these, with every other part of their property, were seized by the crown, yet, to this moment, not one farthing has reached the publick chest. On the contrary, some years, the pretended expense of management was more than the produce. Taxes have been sold for sums of money, which, now, are five times more than when sold.

When lord Nelson was at Hamburgh on his return to England,

A venerable clergyman, apparently between seventy and eighty years of age, was perceived one morning by his lordship, with a large book under his arm, anxiously looking towards the door of his apartment, with the most expressive solicitude depicted in his countenance. His lordship, immediately, with his ever prompt kindness and humanity, desired Mr. Oliver to inquire what was the object of his wish. Having learned that he was the pastor of a place forty miles distant, who had travelled thus far with his parochial bible, in the first leaf of which he wanted the immortal hero to inscribe his name, his lordship instantly admitted him into his presence; readily complied with his request; and then, taking him kindly by the hand, heartily wished the patriarchal and spiritual shepherd a safe return to his rural flock. The aged and pious minister suddenly dropped on his knee, fervently imploring Heaven to bless his lordship, for so generously condescending to indulge his wish, and solemnly declaring that he should now be happy till it pleased God to call him, when he would die contented, having thus done homage to, and obtained favour from, "*the Saviour of the Christian World.*"

Another circumstance, of still greater singularity, occurred at Hamburgh, relative to a wine-merchant. This gentleman, who was likewise more than seventy years of age, and of a very respectable appearance, had requested to speak with lady Hamilton. Her ladyship, accordingly condescendingly admitted him to a private audience; when he informed her, through the medium of Mr. Oliver, who interpreted for both parties, that he had some excellent, old Renish wine, of the vintage of 1625, and which had been in his own possession for more than fifty years. This, he said, had been preserved for some very extraordinary occasion; and one had now arrived, far beyond any he could ever have expected. In short, he flattered himself that, by the kind recommendation of her ladyship, the great and glorious lord Nelson might be prevailed on to accept six dozen bottles of this incomparable wine: part of which, he observed, would then have the honour to flow with the heart's blood of that immortal hero; a reflection which could not fail to render himself the most fortunate man in existence, during the remainder of his days. His lordship being informed of these curious particulars, immediately came into the apartment, and took the old gentleman kindly by the hand, but politely declined the present. He was, however, finally persuaded to accept of six bottles, on condition that the worthy wine-merchant should dine with him next day. This being readily agreed, a dozen bottles were sent; and his lordship, jocosely remarking that he yet hoped to have half a dozen more great victories, protested he would keep six bottles of his Hamburgh friend's wine, purposely to drink a bottle after each. This his lordship did not fail to remember, on coming home, after the battle of Copenhagen; when he "*devoutly drank the donor.*" It is said, that this wine-merchant, soon after lord Nelson had first taken him by the hand, happening to meet with an old friend, who was about to salute him in a similar way, immediately declined the intended kindness, and said he could not suffer any person to touch the hand which had been so highly honoured by receiving that of lord Nelson. Certain it is, that this man felt so overcome by his excessive sensibility, that he literally shed tears of joy during the whole time he was in our hero's presence.

The subsequent relations also prove the admiral's benevolence of heart and openness of purse.

At a grand publick breakfast, given to lord Nelson and his friends, by baron Breteuil, formerly the French ambassadour at the court of Naples, the celebrated general Dumourier was introduced to his lordship. Lord Nelson, notwithstanding his general aversion to Frenchmen, had a favourable opinion of this able and intelligent officer; and said to him, that he hoped they should both, in future, fight hand in hand for the good cause; adding, as there was then some prospect of general Dumourier's being employed in the British service, that there was no person, if we were to have joint operations by sea and land, with whom he would sooner act The general was so overpowered by this generosity and grandeur of soul in our hero, that he could only articulate —"Great Nelson! brave Nelson! I am unable to speak. I cannot make any reply to your goodness!" His lordship, finding the circumstances of general Dumourier very humble, for a man of his merits, kindly sent him a weighty purse, next day, by Mr. Oliver, to whom the general feelingly expressed the utmost thankfulness.

While lord Nelson remained at Hamburgh, he received, one morning, a very extraordinary visit. An Englishman, of gentlemanly address, called on his lordship, and requested to speak with him in private. Sir William Hamilton, conceiving the stranger's appearance to be suspicious, particularly as he held one hand under his coat, advised his lordship not to withdraw. Our hero replied that, though he had never before differed with sir William in opinion, he must decidedly do so now. He felt conscious, he said, that he had done no ill; and, therefore, dreaded none. He then, with firmness, bade the stranger follow him into another apartment; who soon gave his lordship to understand, that he was no less a personage, than the famous major Semple, of swindling notoriety. With a considerable degree of feeling, he detailed his miserable situation: an outcast from society; in the deepest distress; avoided, and despised, by every body. Lord Nelson protested, that he had not expected the honour of such a visit; but, nevertheless, returning to sir William and lady Hamilton, and mentioning who it was, kindly asked—"What shall we do for the poor devil?" They accordingly gave him, between them, a purse of twenty guineas: his lordship tenderly remarking, that he seemed a man of talents, *who had, probably, from some first errour of early life, unchecked by friendly advice or assistance, finally sunk into a state of, perhaps, irrecoverable ignominy.*

Lord N's departure on his final cruize is stated to have been preceded by the following circumstances:

Lord Nelson had, at this period [August 1805] no intention of again going speedily to sea. All his stores had been brought up from the Victory; and he was, he said, resolved to enjoy a little leisure, with his family and friends, in the delightful shades of Merton. The honourable captain Blackwood, a few days afterward, brought intelligence, that the combined fleets, reenforced by two more Spanish squadrons, and now amounting to thirty-four sail of the line, had left Ferrol, and got safely into Cadiz. All this, however, was nothing to him: "Let the man trudge it, who has lost his budget!" gayly repeated his lordship. But, amid all this *allegro* of the tongue, to his friends at Merton Place, lady Hamilton observed that his countenance, from that moment, wore occasional marks of the *penseroso* in his bosom. In this state of mind, he was pacing one of the walks of Merton garden, which he always called the quarter-deck, when lady Hamilton told him, that she perceived he was low and uneasy. He smiled, and said—"No! I am as happy as possible." Adding, that he saw himself surrounded by his family; that he found his health better since he had been at Merton; and, that he would not give a sixpence to call the king his uncle. Her ladyship replied, that she did not believe what he said; and, that she would tell him what was the matter with him. That he was longing to get at these French and Spanish fleets; that he considered them as his own property, and would be miserable if any other man but himself did the business; that he must have them, as the price and reward of his long watching, and two years uncomfortable situation in the Mediterranean: and finished, by saying—"Nelson, however we may lament your absence, and your so speedily leaving us, offer your services, immediately, to go off Cadiz; they will be accepted, and you will gain a quiet heart by it. You will have a glorious victory; and then you may come here, have your *otium cum dignitate,* and be happy." He looked at her ladyship for some moments; and, with tears in his eyes, exclaimed —"Brave Emma! good Emma! if there were more Emmas, there would be more Nelsons. You have penetrated my thoughts. I wish all you say; but was afraid to trust even myself with reflecting on the subject. However, I will go to town." He went, accordingly, next morning, accompanied by her ladyship and his sisters. They left him at the admiralty, on the way to lady Hamilton's house in Clarges street; and,

soon after, received a note, informing them that the Victory was telegraphed not to go into port, and begging they would prepare every thing for his departure. This is the true history of that affecting affair. Her ladyship feels, most severely, that she was the cause of his going; but, as she loved his glory, she could not resist giving him such advice. It is, however, the general opinion of those who best knew his lordship, that he would, in all probability, have fretted himself to death had he not undertaken this expedition.

Relative to the battle at Copenhagen, we are furnished with some private accounts, and an interesting correspondence between the English vice-admiral and the Danish adjutant-general, Lindholm, but they are too long for us to quote. Lord Nelson's disobedience of the commander in chief's signal is unequivocally stated: but it is denied that our fleet would have suffered a repulse if the flag of truce had not taken effect; and M. Lindholm admits, that the *final result* was a defeat on their side, though not an inglorious one. We do not consider it as yet ascertained that the issue would have been similar if the action had been continued.

Another instance of the amiable feelings of Nelson occurs in his conduct towards sir Robert Calder, whom he had orders to send home from the Mediterranean for an inquiry into his conduct in a previous action with the enemy; and it is much to be lamented, for sir Robert's sake, and probably for the publick cause, that lord N's generous and judicious advice was not followed.—Mr. Harrison thus states the circumstance:

On lord Nelson's arrival in the Mediterranean, he had felt it his most difficult task to send home sir Robert Calder. "I had never," said his lordship, speaking on this subject to his confidential friends, "but two enemies in the profession, that I know of; sir Robert Calder and sir John Orde: nor do I feel conscious of having ever given any of them any just cause of offence. However," added this excellent and exalted man, "I will, at least, endeavour to make sir Robert love me." Accordingly, on communicating his orders to this unfortunate commander, he earnestly advised him not to return home immediately; but to serve with himself on the expected glorious occasion, after which there could be nothing to apprehend from any trivial inquiry respecting what might previously have happened. Sir Robert, however, though he could not but feel sensible of his lordship's kindness, was resolved by no means to protract his justification; and lord Nelson, finding him determined to go home, as a last proof of tenderness and respectful consideration for a brother officer thus disagreeably situated, insisted that, instead of sir Robert's departing in a frigate, as directed, he should, at least, have the honour of returning in his own ninety-gun ship, ill as it could, at this eventful crisis, be spared from that station. Thus did the hero willingly hazard a degree of censure from his country, through excess of feeling for sir Robert Calder; nor is it altogether an extravagant impossibility that, to this generous action, he owed even his own death, which the addition of a ship of such force might perhaps have prevented. In writing to the honourable captain Blackwood a second letter, dated the 14th, soon after sir Robert Calder's departure, his lordship feelingly says: "Sir Robert is gone. Poor fellow! I hope he will get well over the inquiry." What a lesson is here of Christian virtue, left by our incomparable hero for the contemplation and admiration of mankind. It is asserted, on no light authority, that sir Robert Calder had formerly, rather rashly, advised a court-martial on our hero, for his departure from his commander in chief's orders on the memorable 14th of February; when the great earl of St. Vincent, with a glorious, noble, and dignified disdain, instantly replied: "You would, then, try a man for knowing better how to act than yourself."

Shortly before the commencement of the fatal battle of Trafalgar, the author relates, lord Nelson took leave of the captain of the Euryalus by saying: "My dear Blackwood, I shall never again speak to you;" and it may be supposed, from all circumstances, that he considered it as probable that his career would be terminated in the approaching combat.

Though we have quarrelled with the profusion and bad taste of the encomiastick expressions employed by this biographer, yet we have always considered lord Nelson as an eminently great character in his profession; and

the more intimately we regard him, in all the various parts of his arduous duties, the more are we disposed to pronounce that he was *a wonderful man*. His actions and his habits should be the study of every British youth who is destined for the military profession, either on land or at sea; and the present volumes, as affording a near view of him, through the medium of his own letters, despatches, conversation, and actions, form a very interesting and valuable text-book.

FROM THE LITERARY PANORAMA.

Lessons for Young Persons in Humble Life. 12mo. pp. 336. Price 3s. 6d. London, 1808.—In the press of James Humphreys, Philadelphia, 1809.

THIS volume appears to us to contain as pleasing an assemblage of pieces calculated to answer its purpose, as any we have ever inspected. Some are in prose, others are in verse. As several slight variations are made in them from their originals, we do not recommend these to the library of the classical reader; but the library of the cottage will find the volume no unacceptable addition; whether by present or by purchase. We mean nothing invidious, when we add, that English stories, *exclusively*, should be put into the hands of English youth: for, how should they understand, with proper allowances, stories connected with foreign manners?

FROM THE BRITISH CRITICK.

Observations on the Brumal Retreat of the Swallow. To which is annexed, a copious Index to many Passages relating to this Bird in ancient and modern Authors. By Philo-chelidon. Second Edition, with Additions. 8vo. 32 pp. 2s. 1808.

WHY, in a first, and still more in a second edition, this author should conceal himself under a feigned name, when he presents to the publick so very sensible and scholar-like a production as the present, we cannot easily comprehend. No one can take offence at what is written upon swallows, nor can it be uncreditable to any man, however situated, to have inquired diligently, or reasoned carefully, on a subject of so general curiosity, as that of the migration of swallows. There is not, perhaps, any other fact relating to natural history, that has been so frequently the topick of narrative or inquiry in popular publications.

Philo-chelidon is decisive for the migration, and thinks that all the instances related of the birds being found torpid, in the water, or in other situations, so far as they are correct, have been accidental, and partial deviations from the general habits of the bird. The authorities quoted by this author are so important, with respect to the departure of this tribe, its being seen in its passage at sea, with its arrival at Senegal, and the warmer parts of Africa, soon after its disappearance in Europe; and his reflections upon them are so judicious, that we should hope to find the question laid at rest for the future; and the analogy of nature in this, as well as other migratory birds, finally established. The index of passages, in ancient and modern authors, on the subject of the swallow, is one of the most copious we have seen of such a kind: and, on the whole, the tract is so sensible, that we hope this *lover of swallows* will be so far a lover of honest fame as to give his real name to the publick.

SPIRIT OF THE MAGAZINES.

ACCOUNT OF LORD STAIR.

GEORGE II. on his return to London after the battle of Dettingen, could, with difficulty, bear the sight of lord Stair. He could not forgive his lordship's reproaching him for the danger which threatened the English army, in case the king had obstinately persisted in leaving it in the camp which it occupied, and where it would have been completely defeated, if the duke de Grammont, by his rashness, had not saved it. Lord Stair, as proud as he was skilful in war, having soon perceived the king's dislike, and being little disposed to bear the shame of a formal disgrace, was on the point of retiring to his estate in Scotland, when he received the following letter.

"MY LORD,

"Your bravery is well known: but will you have the courage to go, to-morrow night, to the entrance of Somerset house, where you will meet one who (if you dare follow him) will conduct you to a part of the town, not much frequented, but where you will find one who is impatient to see you, and to discover secrets which are of more importance than you imagine, and which cannot be disclosed in a letter. If you are afraid this should be a plot on your purse, bring nothing valuable about you."

We may conceive his lordship's surprise at the reading of this note. At first he took it for a trick of some secret enemy; or some affair of gallantry, the heroine of which had probably her reasons for so acting. However, he determined to go. He, therefore, after providing himself with a sword and a brace of good pistols, went to Somerset house, and found there a man, who, without speaking, made him a sign to follow him. After walking for about an hour, they came into a street almost empty, where the conductor knocked at the door of a small, old house. When it was opened, he said: "Walk in, my lord," and the door was shut upon them. The intrepid nobleman, holding his sword in one hand and a pistol in the other, went up the staircase and entered a room, the furniture of which seemed very ancient. "Come in, my lord (said a faint voice issuing from a bed) come in, you have nothing to fear. Pray sit down on the chair near my bed, and we will converse together." "Very well," said lord S. "but make haste and tell me the reason of this odd adventure." "You are hasty, my lord, but have patience. Lay down your arms: take that seat, and come and look at me." His lordship, surprised at such authoritative commands, to which he was little accustomed, got up, took the lamp, went to the bed, and remained stupified at the sight of an old man, pale and thin, with a long white beard, and whose eyes were instantly fixed upon him. "Look at me, my lord," said he, "I am still alive; I owe to you the only true pleasure I have tasted these many, many years. Age and misfortunes, have they entirely effaced the marks of one who is nearly related to you, and who is delighted to find in you features which are most dear to him?" His lordship, still more astonished, looked at the old man, and unable to account for the different emotions which agitated him, spoke not a word. "Stoop," said the old man, "and you will find, under my bed, a box which contains papers capable of

amply repairing the losses which your family has suffered by the civil wars." His lordship having placed the box on the bed, sat down again on the chair. "Here, my lord," said the old man, "here are copies of the sales of three of the principal seats belonging to your ancestors, which your great grandfather sold, or rather pretended to sell, during the troubles. Here are also the letters of the pretended buyers, by which you may immediately recover the estates on your arrival in Scotland. Precautions have been taken to prevent any disputes." What was his lordship's astonishment when he saw these three contracts of estates, which he knew formerly belonged to his house: "Ah!" cried he, with transport, "Ah! who are you, respectable and benevolent old man, to whom I owe more than to my own father? Speak, I beg of you! favour me with the name of so generous a benefactor in whom I am so singularly interested, and whose days Heaven seems to have prolonged, that he may find in me, the most tender and respectful of friends, and the most grateful of men!" "Leave me, my dear lord," said the old man, in haste, "I am too weak to bear a longer conversation, leave me, I beg; take that box and bid adieu to an old man, who thinks himself less unfortunate since he has had the happiness of holding you in his arms." "Ah! whoever you are," said lord S. "and whatever reasons you may have to conceal the name of so generous a man, can you have the cruelty to oblige me to obey you? To abandon you in such a situation, without friends, without help, without—." "Stop, my lord! it is with pleasure I see in you such generous sentiments; but know that your friend (since you think him worthy of that title) however unfortunate he may be in other respects, is still free from want; therefore, if you wish to oblige me, leave me, my lord, instantly; nay, do more, and believe me I have a right to demand it: swear to me that you will never come here again, nor ever search after me, unless I send for you." His lordship seeing by his tone of voice that he would not be refused, promised to obey him; once more embraced him; and then left him with tears in his eyes. On his return home he immediately opened the box, and found a great number of papers which he judged would be of great use to him. Next morning, as he was preparing (notwithstanding his promise) to return to the old man, he was suddenly stopped by the following letter, sealed with his own arms, and to his extreme surprise, signed George Stair.

"Do not return to me, my dear lord, for you will not find me. If it had been only to tell you who I am, that is your great grandfather, who has so long been supposed dead, and who justly deserved to be so; I should not have opposed your just desire of knowing your benefactor; but the consequences which I foresaw of so interesting a scene, too much so for my weak age to bear, made me dread to satisfy your curiosity, upon circumstances, which far from offering to you so dear and respectable a relation as you imagined, would only have shown to you a wretch—a monster less worthy of pity than of horrour!

"My father died a few months after my birth. My mother soon followed him. I was left to the care of an aunt, sister to my father, who brought me up so tenderly that (though she was the cause of my crime) I still retain the most grateful remembrance of her in my heart. I was scarce seventeen, when, struck with indignation, at seeing my countrymen armed against their lawful sovereign, I formed the design of tendering to king Charles I. the offer of my fortune and sword; but what was my astonishment when at disclosing my intention to my good aunt, I saw her, trembling, lift her hands to heaven, and look at me with a kind of horrour. Surprised and afflicted at the state she was in, and turning with impatience to know the reason: "You

force me then to tell you," cried she, bursting into tears. "Know then that the prince you are so desirous of serving, is the author of my shame and of your father's death. I was about fifteen, and among the attendants who waited on his mother, when the wretch, imposing on my age and credulity, by the most sacred oaths, contrived to seduce me—In short, I was ruined. The perfidious prince, soon after, went to Spain, in hopes of marrying the infanta. I should have been entirely lost, if your father had not come to London. To him I was obliged to own my misfortune and the consequences which I dreaded. That dear brother, afflicted even to tears, ran immediately to the queen, obtained permission to take me away, and sent me to one of his seats near Edinburgh, where I remained till I was perfectly recovered. Alas!" added she, "I was doomed to see him no more. The grief which he conceived for my undoing soon killed him, and his worthy wife, who after bringing you into the world, survived only a month." Such, my dear nephew, were the secret and deplorable motives which reduced me to that obscurity in which I have since lived, and of which you are alone acquainted. Judge now, my friend, if after the care I have taken of your infancy, and the education I have procured you, say, can you devote your fortune and arms to the author of so many calamities, to a barbarian who has carried death into the breasts of your parents, and into mine eternal remorse?" "No!" cried I, "by G**! no! the wretch is unworthy of life, and he shall die by my hand!" To tell you, my lord, by what means as refined as dangerous, my fury against the king continually increasing, was at last able to fulfil my revenge and execrable oath; to tell you all the events, and the excess of remorse which soon followed my crime, would be now too grievous in my weak state to relate. Be satisfied with knowing, that you may abhor me as much as I detest myself; *that the executioner of king Charles I. who appeared on the scaffold under a mask, was in fact no other than your unworthy, too guilty great grandfather, Sir George Stair.*"

From 1649 (when Charles I. was beheaded) to 1743 (when the battle of Dettingen was fought) there is an interval of 94 years. On a supposition that sir George Stair was 20 years old when he committed his crime, his age in 1743 must have been 114 years.

The anonymous author of these memoirs, adds; that whatever were the emotions of lord Stair at reading this letter, his first care was to look for the street and house where he had seen his great grandfather; but finding the house empty, he had learnt from the neighbours that it had only been occupied since eight days; that it was never known by whom; that since the preceding night the servants had abandoned it, furnished as it was; that they could not tell of whom the tenant held the house; the proprietor being long since settled in America.

ON NAUSCOPY, OR THE ART OF DISCOVERING SHIPS AT A GREAT DISTANCE FROM LAND.

NAUSCOPY is the art of discovering the approach of ships, or the neighbourhood of lands, at a considerable distance.

This knowledge is not derived either from the undulation of waves, or from the subtilty of sight; but merely from observation of the horizon, which discovers signs indicating the proximity of large objects. On the approximation of a ship towards the land, or towards another ship, there appears, in the atmosphere, a meteor of a particular nature, which, with a little attention, is visible to any person.

M. Bottineau, a native of the island of Bourbon, laid this discovery before M. de Castries, in 1784. The minister sent him back to the island to continue his observations there under the inspection and superintendance of the government.

M. Bottineau engaged, that not a single ship should arrive at the island without his having sent information of it several days before.

An exact register of his communications was kept in the secretary's office. All his reports were compared with the ship's books as soon as they arrived, to see whether the variations of weather, calms which retarded them, &c. &c. were such as agreed with his reports.

It must be observed, that when his reports were made, the watchmen, stationed on the mountains, could never perceive any appearance of ships; for M. Bottineau announced their approach when they were more than a hundred leagues distant.

From the authenticated journal of his reports, which has been published, it appears that he was wonderfully accurate. Within eight months, and in sixty-two reports, he announced the arrival of one hundred and fifty ships of different descriptions.

Of the fact there can be no reasonable doubt; because every method was adopted to prevent deception, and his informations were not only registered, as soon as they were made, in the government office, but were also publickly known over the whole island. The officers of government, moreover, were far from being partial to M. Bottineau; on the contrary, they were highly displeased with him for obstinately refusing to sell them his secret, which they wanted to purchase at a high price, so that he could expect no favour from their representations. Truth, however, obliged them to give abundant testimony to the reality of his extraordinary talent, in their letter to the French minister, which is published in a "*Memoire sur la Nauscopie, par M. Bottineau.*"

The following are two of the reports extracted from this Memoire.

"On the 20th of August, 1784, I discovered some vessels at the distance of four days from the island. On the following day the number multiplied considerably to my sight. This induced me to send information of many vessels. But though they were only at four days distance, I nevertheless stated in my report, that no settled time could be fixed on for their arrival, as they were detained by a calm. On the 25th, the calm was so complete, as to make me think, for a few hours, that the fleet had disappeared, and gone to some other place. I soon after perceived again the presence of the fleet, by the revived signs. It was still in the same state of inaction, of which I sent information. From the 20th of August to the 10th of September, I did not cease to announce, in my reports, the continuation of the calm. On the 13th I sent word that the fleet was no longer becalmed, and that it would arrive at the island within forty-eight hours. Accordingly, to the surprise of the whole island, M. de Regnier's fleet arrived at Port Louis on the 15th. The general astonishment was greatly increased, when it was known that this fleet had been becalmed, since the 20th of August, near Rodriguez islands, which was precisely the distance that I had pointed out in my reports."

"I soon had another opportunity of showing the certainty of my observations. A few days before the arrival of M. de Regnier's fleet, I announced the appearance of another fleet, which became perceptible to me. This created a great deal of uneasiness, because, as no other French fleet was expected, that which I discovered might be English ships. I was ordered to

repeat my observations with the greatest accuracy. I clearly perceived the passage of several ships, and declared that they were not bound for our island, but were taking another course. In consequence of this information, the Naiade frigate and the Duc de Chartres cutter, were suddenly despatched to M. de Suffrein. The cutter actually saw and avoided the English fleet in the ninth degree, but unfortunately, did not find M. de Suffrein in the bay of Trincomalee. The report of the cutter effectually convinced the incredulous of the reality of my discovery."

The last circumstance of despatching the frigate and cutter, plainly shows the confidence which the French officers must have put in the information of M. Bottineau. It shows also that he deserved their confidence.

Conjectures respecting the Phenomenon on which the preceding Observations were founded.

The waters of the ocean form an immense gulf, in which substances of all kinds are swallowed up.

The innumerable multitudes of animals, fish, birds, vegetable, and mineral productions, which decay, and are decomposed in that vast basin, produce a fermentation abounding in spirits, salt, oil, sulphur, &c. &c.

The existence of these is sufficiently apparent by the disagreeable smell and flavour of sea water, which can only be rendered drinkable by distillation, and by the evaporation of those heterogeneous particles which infect it.

The spirits intimately united to the sea waters, continue undisturbed, as long as those waters remain in a state of tranquillity; or, at least, they experience only an internal agitation, which is slightly manifested externally.

But when the waters of the sea are set into motion by storms, or by the introduction of an active mass which rides upon their surface, with violence and rapidity, the volatile vapours contained in the bosom of the sea escape, and rise up a fine mist, which forms an atmosphere round the vessel.

This atmosphere advances with the vessel, and is increased every moment by fresh emanations rising from the bottom of the water.

These emanations appear like so many small clouds, which, joining each other, form a kind of sheet projecting forward, one extremity of which touches the ship, whilst the other advances into the sea, to a considerable distance.

But this train of vapours is not visible to the sight. It escapes observation by the transparency of its particles, and is confounded with the other fluids which compose the atmosphere.

But as soon as the vessel arrives within a circumference, where it meets with other homogeneous vapours, such as those which escape from land, this sheet, which till that time had been so limpid and subtil, is suddenly seen to acquire consistence and colour, by the mixture of the two opposite columns.

This change begins at the prolonged extremities, which by their contact, are united, and acquire a colour and strength; afterwards, in proportion to the progression of the vessel, the metamorphosis increases and reaches the centre. At last the phenomenon becomes the more manifest, and the ship makes its appearance.

Memoir of Robert Levett, the Inmate of Dr. Johnson for near thirty Years.—Written by the late George Steevens, Esq. the celebrated Commentator on Shakspeare.

[*Not Published in Boswell's Memoirs of Johnson.*]

ROBERT LEVETT, though an Englishman by birth,* became early in life a waiter at a coffee-house in Paris. The surgeons who frequented the house, finding him of an inquisitive turn, and attentive to their conversation, made a purse for him, and gave him some instructions in their art. They afterwards furnished him with the means of other knowledge, by procuring him free admission to such lectures in pharmacy and anatomy as were read by the ablest professors of that period. Hence his introduction to a business which afforded him a continual, though slender maintenance.

Where the middle parts of his life were spent is uncertain. He resided almost thirty years under the roof of Johnson, who never wished him to be regarded as an inferiour, or treated him like a dependant.†

He breakfasted with the doctor every morning, and, perhaps, was seen no more by him till midnight. Much of the day was employed in attendance on his patients, who were chiefly of the lowest rank of tradesmen. The remainder of his hours he dedicated to Hunter's lectures, and to as many different opportunities of improvement as he could meet with on the same gratuitous conditions. "All his physical knowledge," said Johnson, "and it is not inconsiderable,‡ was obtained through the ear. Though he buys books, he seldom looks into them, or discovers any power by which he can be supposed to judge of an author's merit."

Before he became a constant inmate of the doctor's house, he married a woman who had persuaded him (notwithstanding their place of congress was a small coal-shed in Fetter-lane) that she was nearly related to a nobleman, but was injuriously kept by him out of large possessions. It is almost needless to add, that both parties were disappointed in their views. If Levett took her for an heiress, she regarded him as a physician already in considerable practice. Compared with the marvels of this transaction (as Johnson himself declared, when relating them) the Tales in the Arabian Nights' Entertainments seem familiar occurrences. Never was infant more completely imposed upon than our hero. He had not many days been married, before he was arrested for debts incurred by his wife. In a short time afterwards she was tried (providentially, in his opinion) for theft at the Old Bailey. Levett attended the court, in the hope she would be hanged: and was very angry with the counsel who undertook her defence. "I once thought," said he, "the man had been my friend; but this behaviour of his has proved the contrary." She was, however, acquitted; and Johnson himself concerted the terms of separation for this ill-starred couple, and then took Levett home, where he continued till his death, which happened suddenly, and without pain, at the age of eighty.

As no relations of his were known to Dr. Johnson, he advertised for them.

* He was born at Hull, in Yorkshire.

† Dr. Johnson has often declared, that Levett was indebted to him for nothing more than house room, his share in a penny loaf at breakfast, and now and then a dinner on a Sunday.

‡ He had acted for many years in the capacity of physician, surgeon, and apothecary, to Johnson. After the good and learned Dr. Lawrence retired from business, the care of Johnson entirely devolved upon Levett; nor was any other physician ever called in till after Levett's death, which happened in January, 1782.

In the course of a few weeks an heir-at-law appeared, and ascertained his title to what effects the deceased had left behind him.

Levett's character was rendered valuable by repeated proofs of honesty, tenderness, and gratitude to his benefactor, as well as by an unwearied diligence in his profession. His single failing (if it may be called one) was an occasional departure from sobriety. Johnson would observe, "he was, perhaps, the only man who ever became intoxicated through motives of prudence. He reflected, that if he refused the gin or brandy offered him by some of his patients, he could have been no gainer by their cure; as they might have nothing else to bestow upon him—The habit of taking a fee, in whatever shape it was exhibited, could not be put off by advice, or admonition of any kind. He would swallow what he did not like, nay, what he knew would injure him, rather than go home with an idea that his skill had been exerted without recompense."

"Had," continued Johnson, "all his patients maliciously combined to reward him with meat and strong liquors instead of money, he would either have burst, like the dragon in the Apocrypha, through repletion, or have been scorched up, like Portia, by swallowing fire." But let not from hence an imputation of rapaciousness be fixed upon him; though he took all that was offered him, he demanded nothing from the poor, nor was known, in any instance, to have enforced the payment of even what was justly his due.

His person was middle sized, and thin; his visage swarthy, adust, and corrugated; his conversation, except on professional subjects, barren: when in dishabille, he might have been mistaken for an alchymist, whose complexion had been hurt by the fumes of the crucible, and whose clothes had suffered from the sparks of the furnace.

Such was Levett, whose whimsical frailty, if weighed against his good and useful qualities, was

> "A floating atom—dust that falls unheeded
> Into the adverse scale—nor shakes the balance."
>
> IRENE.

To the above prose character of Levett, by Mr. Steevens, we cannot resist giving the fine poetical one written by Dr. Johnson, which is equally worthy of the pen and the heart of the author.

I.

Condemned in hope's delusive mine,
As on we toil from day to day,
By sudden blast or slow decline,
Our social comforts drop away.

II.

Well tried, through many a varying year,
See Levett to the grave descend;
Officious—innocent—sincere,
Of every friendless name the friend.

III.

Yet still he fills affection's eye,
Obscurely wise and coarsely kind;
Nor lettered arrogance deny
Thy praise to merit unrefin'd.

IV.

When fainting nature called for aid,
And hovering death prepared the blow,
His vigorous remedy displayed
The power of art, without the show.

V.

In misery's darkest caverns known,
His ready help was ever nigh,
Where hopeless anguish poured his groan,
And lonely want retired to die.

VI.

No summons mocked by chill delay;
No petty gains disdained by pride;
The modest wants of every day
The toil of every day supplied.

VII.

His virtues walked their narrow round,
Nor made a pause, nor left a void:
And sure the Eternal Master found
His single talent well employed.

VIII.

The busy day, the peaceful night,
Unfelt, uncounted, glided by;
His frame was firm, his powers were bright,
Though now his eightieth year was nigh.

IX.

Then with no throbs of fiery pain,
No cold gradations of decay,
Death broke at once the vital chain,
And freed his soul the nearest way.

CURIOUS ANECDOTES OF A POPULAR PERFORMER.

From Ryley's Itinerant; or, the Memoirs of an Actor.

COOK is so well known as an actor, that my opinion can neither add to, nor diminish his fame; were either in my power, panegyrick would run through a dozen pages, and yet fall short of his merits. In some characters he is as much superiour to any actor of the present day, as Garrick was to those of his time; but they are limited to such parts as suit his figure, which wants grace and proportion. Where these can be dispensed with, he has no competitor. As a man in private life, he is the gentleman, the scholar, the friend, the life of every party, an enemy to scandal and detraction, and benevolent even to imprudence.

Such is Cook in his sober moments; but, when stimulated by the juice of the grape, he acts in diametrical opposition to all this. No two men, however different they may be, can be more at variance than Cook sober, and Cook in a state of inebriety. At these times, his interesting suavity of manners changes to brutal invective, and the feelings of his nearest and dearest friends are sacrificed. Such are the unfortunate propensities of this singular man, unfortunate, I say, because he seems incapable of avoiding them, although they have a tendency to ruin his health, injure his property, and destroy his social connexions. No one can more regret these failings than he does in his hours of sanity, or make more handsome apologies; and if at night he creates enemies, his conciliatory manners in the morning are sure to raise double the number of friends.

Of this great actor many ludicrous anecdotes are related. I shall point out a few which came under my own observation.

One evening, in Manchester, we were in a publick bar amongst a promiscuous company, where Cook was, as usual, the life of the party. Mirth and good humour prevailed till about ten o'clock, when I perceived a

something lurking in his eye which foretold a storm. Anxious to get him home before it burst forth, I pressed our departure, under the plea of another engagement; but, instead of having the desired effect, it precipitated what I had foreseen. With a haughty, supercilious look, he said: "I see what you are about, you hypocritical scoundrel! You canting, methodistical thief! Am I, Cook, to be controlled by such a would-be puritan as you? I'll teach you to dictate to a tragedian." Then taking off his coat, and holding his fist in a menacing attitude—"Come out," continued he—"thou prince of deceivers; though thou hast faith to remove mountains, thou shalt not remove me—Come out, I say." With much difficulty he was pacified and resumed his coat. There was a large fire in the bar, before which stood, with his coat skirts under each arm, a pitiful imitation of *buckism*, very deficient in cleanliness and costume. His face was grimy, and his neckcloth of the same tint, which, nevertheless, was rolled in various folds about his throat; his hair was matted, and turned up under a round, greasy hat, with narrow brims, conceitedly placed on one side of the head, which noddled under it like a shaking mandarin. Thus equipped, the filthy fop straddled before the fire, which he completely monopolized. At length he caught the eye of our tragedian, who, in silent amazement, for the space of half a minute, examined him from top to toe; then turning to me, he burst into a horse laugh, and roared out, "*Beau Nasty*, by ——."—Perhaps intimidated by Cook's former blustering, this insensible puppy took little notice; but I knew he would not stop here, and, indeed, I thought the stranger fair game. Cook now rose from his seat, and taking up the skirts of his coat, in imitation of the other, turned his back to the fire: "Warm work in the *back settlements*, sir," said he; then approaching still nearer, as if he had some secret to communicate, whispered, though loud enough for every one to hear: "Pray, sir, how is soap?"

"Soap?"

"Yes, sir, soap: I understand it is coming down."

"I am glad of it, sir."

"Indeed, sir, you have cause, if one may judge from your appearance."

Here was a general laugh, which the stranger seemed not to regard, but nodding his head, and hitting his boots with a little rattan, rang the bell with an air of importance, and inquired "if he could have a *weal kitlet*, or a *matton chip?*"

"What do you think," said Cook, "of a *roasted puppy?* because," taking up the poker, "I'll spit you, and roast you in a minute."

This had a visible effect on the dirty beau. He retreated towards the door, Cook following. "Avaunt, and quit my sight; thy face is dirty, and thy hands unwashed; avaunt! avaunt! I say." Then replacing the poker, and returning to his seat, he continued: "Being gone, I am a man again."

It happened that Perrins, the noted pugilist, made one of the company this evening. He was a remarkable strong man, and possessed of great modesty and good nature. The last scene took such an effect on his imagination, that he laughed immoderately. Cook's attention was attracted, and turning towards him with his most bitter look—"What do you laugh at, Mr. Swabson? hey? why, you great lubber-headed thief, Johnson would have beat two of you! laugh at me! at Cook! come out, you scoundrel!!"

The coat was again pulled off, and putting himself in an attitude: "This is the arm that shall sacrifice you." Perrins was of a mild disposition, and knowing Cook's character, made every allowance, and answered him only by a smile, till, aggravated by language and action the most gross, he very calmly took him in his arms, as though he had been a child, set him

down in the street, and bolted the door. The evening was wet, and our hero without coat or hat, unprepared to cope with it; but entreaty for admission was vain, and his application at the window unattended to. At length, grown desperate, he broke several panes, and inserting his head through the fracture, bore down all opposition by the following witticism: "Gentlemen, I have taken some *pains* to gain admission; pray let me in, for *I see through my errour.*" The door was opened, dry clothes procured, and about one o'clock in the morning we sent him home in a coach.

LETTER FROM POMARE, KING OF OTAHEITE, TO THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

POMARE, the king of Otaheite, who has long been in the habit of visiting, and familiarly conversing with the British missionaries at Matavai, in that island, has assiduously applied himself, for a considerable time, under their direction, to attain the art of writing, which at length he has acquired.

A letter having been sent to Pomare, by the directors of the Missionary Society, the missionaries carefully translated it, and laid it before him. The following answer was composed entirely by himself, in the Taheitan language, and was then translated by the missionaries into English, which translation was copied by the king.

The annexed is an exact copy of his English letter, and may be considered as a literary curiosity.

FRIENDS, *Matavae, Otahete, Jan. 1st*, 1807.

I wish you every blessing, friends, in your residence in your country, with success in teaching this bad land, this foolish land, this wicked land, this land which is ignorant of good, this land that knoweth not the true God, this regardless land.

Friends, I wish you health and prosperity: may I also live, and may Jehovah save us all.

Friends, with respect to your letter you wrote to me, I have this to say to you, that your business with me, and your wishes I fully consent to, and shall consequently banish Oro, and send him to Raeatea.

Friends, I do therefore believe and shall obey your word.

Friends, I hope you also will consent to my request, which is this: I wish you to send a great number of men, women, and children here.

Friends, send also property, and cloth for us, and we also will adopt English customs.

Friends, send also plenty of muskets and powder; for wars are frequent in our country. Should I be killed, you will have nothing in Tahete: do not come here when I am dead: Tahete is a regardless country, and should I die with sickness, do not come here. This also I wish, that you would send me all the curious things that you have in England. Also send me every thing necessary for writing. Paper, ink, and pens in abundance: let no writing utensil be wanting.

Friends, I have done, and have nothing at all more to ask you for. As for your desire to instruct Tahete, 'tis what I fully acquiesce in. Tis a common thing for people not to understand at first; but your object is good, and I fully consent to it, and shall cast off all evil customs.

What I say is truth, and no lie: it is the real truth.

This is all I have to write: I have done.

Friends write to me, that I may know what you have to say.

I wish you life and every blessing. May I also live, and may Jehovah save us all.

POMARE, KING OF TAHETE.

For my friends, the Missionary Society, London.

Above we have inserted a letter from the king of Otaheite to the Missionary Society in London: we now present our readers with one of an earlier date to governour King, of Sidney. It is a curiosity highly worthy the attention of the philanthropist, who must admire, with secret satisfaction, the rudiments of literature and science thus diffused and cultivated in regions whose very existence, but a few years ago, was utterly unknown to the European world. The pleasure arising from such reflections will be enhanced, by considering, that British subjects have been the sole instruments in effecting these advances in civilisation, and its character, in this instance, has been consistently maintained; that instead of establishing its influence by usurpation and the sword, or fostering, under the shadow of the sacred doctrines of Heaven, latent schemes of ambition, the great objects in view have been attained by steadily inculcating benevolence and peace.

SIR, *Eimeo, from the Harbour of Obuno, Dec.* 9, 1804.

From the friendship you showed to the late king, my father, and the expense the English have been at, in sending missionaries into these parts, for the improvement of myself and ignorant people, I am sure it will give you pleasure, to find it has not all been thrown away; as it has enabled me to address myself to you by letter, what I should have been incapable of but for those gentlemen.—The purport of my letter is, to inform you that I am building a large schooner for the purpose of protecting myself and the English from a party of my rebellious subjects, who have frequently threatened me with war; for which vessel I am in want of two guns, a quadrant, and a compass; and, as I have no friends but the English, to you I apply, sir, for those things; and in return will assist any English ship that should happen to call here, with every thing my country affords; or if you please, should your place be in want of pork, will give you hogs in return.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Yours most gratefully,

POMARE, *King*.

DAVID'S GRAND PICTURE.

ON Monday, the 4th of January, 1808, their majesties paid a visit to M. David, to see his picture of the coronation. They were accompanied by several ladies of the palace, marshal Bessieres, M. Le Brun, several chamberlains and pages. Horse guards preceded and followed their carriages. In order to appreciate all the details of this visit, in which the emperour seemed to intend to do honour to the arts in the person of the first painter of the age, it is necessary to have before us the picture of M. David. It is thirty feet long and nineteen high. There are upwards of 200 figures as large as life. —Wishing, as much as possible, to represent in one single action the coronation of the emperour and empress, which, during the ceremony took place successively, the artist has chosen the moment in which the emperour, after having placed on his own head, one after the other, two crowns, has taken the second, and, raising it, is in the act of placing it on the head of his august empress. The two principal figures occupy the centre of the picture.—The emperour is standing on one of the steps of the altar.—The

empress is on her knees, her hands clasped, and raised towards her sovereign, in token of her gratitude and respect.—This fine figure has all the dignity which the subject could require, and all the nobleness and grace of the original. On the right, and before the altar, is the pope sitting, cardinal Fesch, grand almoner; other cardinals, an archbishop, a great number of Italian and French bishops, the arch-chancellor, the arch-treasurer, the prince of Neufchatel, the viceroy of Italy, the grand equerry, the prince of Ponte Corvo; further off, prince Murat, marshals Moncey, Serrurier, Bessieres, and the grand master of the ceremonies, are grouped near his holiness, and surround the altar. On the left, near the empress, are the sisters of the emperour, the queen of Naples, the queen of Holland, the kings, his majesty's brothers, marshals Lefebvre, Perignon, Kellerman, several ladies of honour, and the chamberlain of the princesses. In front in a box, are madame, the emperour's mother, her ladies of honour and officers of her household; and towards the bottom, some persons eminent for their talents. In an adjoining box are the foreign ambassadours.

As soon as his majesty looked at the picture, he said: "How delightful! What relief in all the pictures! How beautiful! What truth!—It is not a painting—it is real life."—His majesty then looked at the box in the middle, and immediately recognised his mother, afterwards madame Soult, madame de Fontanges, de Lovelle, and general Beaumont.—"I see at a distance good Mr. Vien."—Yes, sire (replied M. David) I wished to do homage to my master, by placing him in a picture which, for its object, will be the most important of my works. The sentiment was approved of by his majesty, who appeared to take pleasure in proving to M. David that he recognised all the persons in the picture. His attention was next directed to the group in which he is represented as on the point of crowning the empress. He expressed his satisfaction in these words: "The time is well chosen; the action well described; and each of the figures extremely good."—The empress agreed with the emperour.

The emperour remained much longer before the picture; praised the different parts and the whole. The day, however, declining, his majesty, as he was on the point of departing, stopped a moment before the artist, pulled off his hat, and expressed those sentiments of benevolence which he evinces for all great talents.—[*Moniteur.*]

THEATRICAL.

DRURY LANE.

Thursday, December 1, 1808, a New Drama, called *Venoni, or the Novice of St. Mark*, from the pen of Mr. *Monk* Lewis, was performed for the first time.

Fable.—Venoni, a young Sicilian nobleman, was on the point of marriage with Josepha, when her parents were obliged to visit the court of Naples. During their absence, Josepha was placed in a convent, where, it was reported, she shortly after sickened and died. Grief for her loss for a time robbed Venoni of his senses; and on his recovery he entered the monastery of St. Mark, which was only separated by a party-wall from the convent of the Ursulines, in which Josepha was said to have expired. At this period the piece commences. Venoni is on the eve of pronouncing his vows, when father Michael gives him a letter from the abbess to the prior of St. Mark, which explains that Celestino, the prior, had failed in an attempt upon Josepha's virtue, and that her removal from the world had been thought necessary, to prevent her divulging to her parents the infamous

conduct of the abbess and her confederate. Blinded by fury, Venoni shows this letter to the prior, who says to his holy brethren: "We are all discovered." In consequence, Venoni is prevented from leaving the monastery, and confined in a subterraneous dungeon, where the preceding victim of Celestino's rage died,* after having been confined twenty years, and which the prior believes to be unknown to all except himself and his accomplices: but father Michael having suspected the existence of such a dungeon, has traced out the way to it, and hastens to apprize the viceroy. In the meanwhile, Venoni, in endeavouring to escape from his prison, knocks down the party-wall, and thus breaks into the adjoining convent, and discovers his mistress, likewise in a dungeon, who had not been put to death, but closely confined; and the deliverance of both is shortly after produced by the arrival of father Michael, with the viceroy and Josepha's parents.

Dangle—Excellent, i'faith!—But won't this appear *rather improbable?*

Puff—To be sure it will; but, what the plague! a play is not to show occurrences that happen every day; but things just so strange, that though *they never did*, they *might have happened!*—SHERIDAN.

Notwithstanding this authority, we cannot help avowing, that we think the incidents of this play never did, or are ever likely to happen. There is such a mixture of horrour and improbability about them that defies even all credibility; for who can believe that Celestino, the prior of St. Mark, could live on such terms of intimacy and friendship, as he is represented to do, with the marchioness of Caprara, while he is keeping her daughter Josepha, during the period of twelve months, in a tremendously horrid subterraneous cave, lighted only by the melancholy glimmer of a sorry lamp, because she would not consent to his libidinous passion; at the same time cajoling her mother and all her friends, with the tale that she was dead and buried, in the convent of the Ursulines, in which her relations had placed her!—But this burying alive is not all: we have insanity and murder to boot, insomuch that our author again, as Shakspeare says, "waxes desperate with imagination," as he was wont to do in the MONK, and his other gloomy and most extravagant productions. His predilection for caverns, ghosts, blacks, and other strange auxiliaries to his muse, had fortified us in the expectation of witnessing something not to be met with every day, either in castle, cloister, or prison; but, notwithstanding this, the denouement of Venoni is so horrid and improbable, and the pantomime atrocity so very glaring, that it excited the universal disgust of the audience; and, like them, we more than once wished the curtain would fall to relieve us from terrours no one could give credit to.

The noise and confusion was so great at the latter end of the piece, that we could not by any means discover what became of the prior and his holy brotherhood, who were all represented to be villains alike, in compliment, we suppose, to the reigning sentiment lately in vogue in France (that all priests are rogues) whence this piece derives its origin. It is taken from the French drama entitled *Les Victimes Cloîtrées*, which was performed at

* On the recital of the fate of this victim to the rage of Celestino, we certainly expected something very terrible to follow, from the author's well known taste for the terrifick and marvellous. In truth, we began to pity the audience, and the lines of the poet, describing a dead man and another audience, immediately came into our recollection.

The dead man gave a groan.....
They groan'd, they stared, they all uprose,
Nor spok'd, nor mov'd their eyes:
Had it been strange, e'en in *this* play,
To have seen *that* dead man rise!

Paris with great success. And when it is considered how forcibly it attacks the monks, we cannot in the least be surprised; as that order of people has been, by the fashionable philosophical currency, subjected to the most unmanly attacks of writers who chose to level their sarcasm and illiberality at them when they had not even the privilege of defending themselves from *la liberté et l'égalité.*

The audience manifested great disapprobation; and much must be curtailed to ensure it even a short run. The third act can never remain on the stage, in its present state. A most ridiculous masquerade scene helped to lengthen the play without producing any other effect, than that of adding weight to what was already too heavy; although, like the comick wit of the piece, it was intended to lighten it. *Apropos*, of this wit the following is a specimen. The scene, as our readers have already been informed, lies at Messina. Benedetto says: "If I were a senator I would have *an act of parliament* to prevent fat people from walking out in the dog days."—In fact the humorous parts of the play produced no laughter; but it would be doing great injustice to the author not to avow that the language of the serious parts, in general, is highly creditable to him; eliciting fine sentiments, finely expressed. When it is published, we shall notice some of those passages which struck us as particularly worthy of attention.

We present our readers with a slight representation of the situation of the hero and heroine in the last scene, by which they will be enabled to judge of its probability. Such of them as have been abroad will be surprised to see a convent and a monastery so nigh each other, and perhaps may exclaim, as a highly distinguished foreigner did to us, on viewing this exhibition: *Diantre, nous autres, nous n'avons jamais vu pareille chose dans le monde—mais, croyez-vous que John Bull l'avalera?*

Mr. Lewis's pair of Dungeons.

EXPLANATION.

A. Josepha's dungeon, in the convent of the Ursulines, where she has been confined one year. This unfortunate lady appears only in this last scene.—B. Venoni's dungeon in the monastery of St. Mark.—This pair of dungeons fills the whole front of the stage.

C. The party wall that divides the two dungeons, and which is knocked down by the exertions of Venoni—a feat we believe not to have been equalled since the days of Guy Earl of Warwick, or Jack the Giant-killer.

No. 2, represents the dungeons after the exertions of Signor Venoni's athletick powers.

* * * *

On Wednesday evening, December 7, the author, in consequence of the marked disapprobation of the audience, desired it to be announced that he would withdraw the piece, to write an entire new third act.—On the same morning appeared the following paid for puff, in a diurnal print:

"Indeed, this new drama seems to unfold new beauties every successive representation. It was disputed, however, which had more admirers, Venoni, or Love in a Tub; the latter certainly appeared universally to please."

Thus it appears that a contemptible dance has *universal* admirers, while

Venoni, notwithstanding *its new beauties every night*, is left in the minority, and obliged to be written over again! Surely this is a strange way of puffing, and worthy only of *modern* managers, modern authors, and modern newspapers.

* * * *

Monday, December 12, the drama of *Venoni*, was again brought forward, with alterations, and an entire new third act, much to the credit of the author, and to the improvement of the piece; as some part of the improbability has been done away, *although Ludovico*, THE DEAD MAN, *has really been brought to life*, as our readers will perceive by the following account of the new third act.

It opens with a view of the inside of an awful, subterraneous dungeon, where Celestino and his confederates determine to fix the last abode of Venoni, whom they convey thither. There Venoni meets the monk Ludovico (spoken of in the play, as dying, after having been confined 20 years in the vaults of the monastery) and informs him, that he has discovered an outlet that leads to the convent, but that the door to the passage is strongly bolted. This door, Venoni, by means of a bar found in his dungeon, breaks down, and thereby escapes. The next scene discovers the abbess and Celestino consulting about the future disposal of Josepha, and concludes with his determination to possess her. Josepha is then brought blindfolded into a dungeon, near the hall of the convent, and left, as if to be confined there for ever; when suddenly, after a solemn symphony on the organ, the scene draws and discovers the abbess with her sister companions in the hall, which is finely illuminated and prepared for a banquet; here, while the abbess is persuading Josepha to listen to Celestino's designs, Venoni breaks in and, recognising Josepha, endeavours to carry her off, but is prevented by the entrance of Celestino and his party; who, while parting the lovers, is himself surprised by the entrance of Father Michael, with the viceroy and a party of guards at one door, and the father and mother of Josepha through another door of the convent; and the piece concludes.

This alteration was received with much applause, particularly by those who, like ourselves, had witnessed the ridiculous exhibition of a pair of dungeons, the party-wall, and its demolition. But the denouement could have been rendered still more complete if the cidevant dead man, Ludovico, had been introduced in the last scene, and confronted with his infamous superiour, Celestino.

HAY-MARKET THEATRE.

On Monday, December 5, we descended, by thirteen steep steps, into the cavern of this theatre, yclep'd the pit, not for our own pleasure; for we have never entered it with that sensation since the death of the smothered victims, to whose sad manes the managers and proprietors have never elevated, by way of monument, any barrier against similar accidents, notwithstanding the catastrophes of Sadler's Wells, and Covent Garden theatre. Our duty to the Panorama, therefore, led us to report on the new farce entitled *The School for Authors*.

Fable.—The whole of the business of this piece turns on the strange infatuation which possesses Diaper, a wealthy tradesman, of being esteemed a dramatick writer of eminence. To establish this character he has constructed a tragedy called *Gunpowder Treason*, or, *the Fifth of November*, for the success of which, being very anxious, he prevails upon Cleveland, a young man of liberal acquirements, to acknowledge the new piece coming

but to be his.—Cleveland accedes to this, desirous of recommending himself as the professed admirer of his niece, Jane, an accomplished girl, who is also attached to him, but whose hand Diaper is determined to bestow upon no one but a man of genius. *Gunpowder Treason* is hissed off the stage; but a comedy performed the same night at the other house, and which is completely successful, is declared by Cleveland to be his production. On this, Diaper, glad to hush up the whole business, gives his niece to Cleveland, and the piece concludes. The auxiliary characters of Wormwood, a snarling critick, and Frank, Jeffry, and Susan, confidential servants, &c. give some variety to the picture.

The farce is said to have been written by the late Mr. Tobin; and if it were possible for us to forget the sources from whence he drew this rather improbable piece of pleasantry, it might pass as a very able effort of his genius in the farcical line. It is taken from a tale of Marmontel, anglicised in Foote's *Patron*, and from a French dramatick proverb entitled *l'Amateur*; and, lastly, from the *Critick*, of which it is so close and flagrant an imitation that *la chose saute aux yeux*, as the French say. Some of the expressions and characters, are merely "disfigured, as beggars do stolen children, to make them pass for their own."—Diaper from the Minories is another sir Fretful; Wormwood is Sneer, and poor Susan an ignorant kind of Mrs. Dangle. Frank, Diaper's *footman* is certainly not in the *Critick*,—yet, like Dangle, he is represented to be a judge of dramatick literature—he is, moreover, a writer of criticisms, and a *Reviewer*. Diaper is performed by Munden, who substituted mummery and oaths for that superiour kind of acting, we have so frequently witnessed in the sir Fretful Plagiary of the inimitable Parsons. Frank, the footman, was ably supported by Jones. This character seems to have been designed by the author as a vehicle to ridicule the writers of criticisms on the drama in the newspapers; and when we reflect on the trash that issues from the press, under this title, we cannot be surprised that it should have excited the author's bile, or been offensive to other persons of common sense.

The intention, the language, and the wit of *The School for Authors*, are highly creditable to its lamented author, on whose account we had occasion to regret (in noticing his elegant production of *The Curfew*) his being snatched from the enjoyment of witnessing the success of the efforts of his muse. However, we are happy to do justice to his memory, in affirming that he never meant the character of Diaper to be degraded by such vollies of oaths as his representative emits. They could be expected only from the very refuse of society, lost to all the blandishments of decency and civilisation. The managers should not suffer the genius of any author to be so calumniated and defamed, nor their patent theatres turned into *Schools for Swearing!*

DONATION OF A LORD MAYOR OF LONDON, IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

Reygate, Jan. 1809.

SIR,—In looking into Fabyan's "Chronicle," a very scarce book, of which I possess a mutilated copy, "printed at London by William Rastell, 1533," I met with the following account of a donation to the city of London; made by the mayor, in the year 1370, and marked it as deserving of particular attention. I do not know whether the fact is elsewhere, or otherwise, recorded; but thinking it right that "good and merytoryous dedes should be holden in memory," I send it you, for the information of those whom it

may concern, by means of your widely circulating miscellany.—It occurs in the seventh part, page cxii verso.

"And to the ende that good and merytoryous dedes should be holden in memorye, here is to be noted that the mayre for thys yere beying John Beryns mercer, gave unto the comynaltye of the cytye of London a chest wyth thre lockes and keyes, and therein a thousande marke of redy money, wyllyng the keyes therof to be yerely in the kepynge of thre sundry persons, that is to mene the mayster of the felysshyp of the mercery to have one, the mayster of the felysshyp of the drapars the second, and thyrde to be in the kepynge of the chamberlayne of that cytye. And so therein the sayde thousande marke to be kept, to the entent that at all tymes when any cytesyne wolde borrowe any money, that he shulde have it there for the space of a yere, to laye for suche a summe as he wold have plate or other iewellys to a suffycyente gayge, so that he excedyd not the summe of an hundreth marke. And for the occupyenge therof yf he were lerned, to saye at hys pleasure *De Profundis* for the soul of John Beryns and all christen soules, as often tymes as in hys summe were comprysed x markes. As he that borowed but x marke, shulde saye but over that prayer. And yf he had xx marke, then to saye it twyes, and so after the rate. And yf he were not lerned, then to saye so often hys Paternoster. But how so thys money was lent or gyded, at thys daye the cheste remayneth in the chamber of London, wythout money or pledges for the same."

This donation amounted to a very considerable sum. A mark of thirteen shillings and four pence, of 1370, was equal in weight of silver to thirty-three shillings and three farthings of our present money, as it appears from Fleetwood's Chronicon Pretiosum that a pound weight of silver now coined into sixty-two shillings was coined only into twenty-five shillings, from 1353 to 1421. 1000 marks consequently amounted in effective money of 1809 to 1,658*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and taking into consideration the different prices of provisions and of the necessaries of life, according to sir George Shuckburgh, Evelyn's table, commencing in 1050, printed in the Philosophical Transactions for 1798, by which the average price of the various necessaries of life in 1359 compared with the estimated average price in 1809, is the proportion of 77 to 562, John Beryns's liberal accommodation to the needy of his fellow-citizens was equal to 12,067*l.* 5*s.* of the present currency.

I beg leave to observe that this calculation is made from the data afforded in Godwin's life of Chaucer, Vol. II. pp. 61 and 62, not having access to the original authorities.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

S. H. WILCOCKE.

ANECDOTES.

The following anecdotes of sir Isaac Newton, are related in *Turner's Collections for a History of Grantham,* lately published in England.

A NEW wind mill was set up near Grantham, in the way to Gunnerby, which is now demolished, this country chiefly using water mills. Our lad's imitating spirit was soon excited, and by frequently prying into the fabrick of it, as they were making it, he became master enough to make a very perfect model thereof, and it was said to be as clean and curious a piece of workmanship, as the original. This sometimes he would set upon the housetop, where he lodged, and clothing it with sail cloth, the wind would

readily turn it; but what was most extraordinary in its composition was, that he put a mouse into it, which he called the miller, and that the mouse made the mill turn round when he pleased; and he would joke too upon the miller eating the corn that was put in. Some say that he tied a string to the mouse's tail, which was put into a wheel, like that of turnspit dogs, so that pulling the string made the mouse go forward by way of resistance, and this turned the mill. Others suppose there was some corn placed above the wheel, this the mouse endeavouring to get to, made it turn. Moreover, sir Isaac's water clock is much talked of. This he made out of a box he begged of Mr. Clarke's (his landlord) wife's brother. As described to me, it resembled pretty much our common clocks and clock-cases, but less; for it was not above four feet in height, and of a proportionable breadth. There was a dial-plate at top with figures of the hours. The index was turned by a piece of wood, which either fell or rose by water dropping. This stood in the room where he lay, and he took care every morning to supply it with its proper quantity of water; and the family, upon occasion, would go to see what was the hour by it. It was left in the house long after he went away to the university.

These fancies sometimes engrossed so much of his thoughts, that he was apt to neglect his book, and dull boys were now and then put over him in form. But this made him redouble his pains to overtake them, and such was his capacity that he could soon do it, and outstrip them when he pleased; and it was taken notice of by his master. Still nothing could induce him to lay by his mechanical experiments: but all holydays, and what time the boys had allowed to play, he spent entirely in knocking and hammering in his lodging room, pursuing that strong bent of his inclination not only in things serious, but ludicrous too, and what would please his school fellows, as well as himself; yet it was in order to bring them off from trifling sports, and teach them, as we may call it, to play philosophically, and in which he might willingly bear a part, and he was particularly ingenious at inventing diversions for them, above the vulgar kind. As for instance, in making paper kites, which he first introduced here. He took pains, they say, in finding out their proportions and figures, and whereabouts the string should be fastened to the greatest advantage, and in how many places. Likewise he first made lanterns of paper crimpled, which he used to go to school by, in winter mornings, with a candle, and tied them to the tails of the kites in a dark night, which at first affrighted the country people exceedingly, thinking they were comets. It is thought that he first invented this method; I can't tell how true. They tell us too how diligent he was in observing the motion of the sun, especially in the yard of the house where he lived, against the walls and roofs, wherein he would drive pegs, to mark the hours and half hours made by the shade,* which, by degrees, from some years observations, he had made very exact, and any body knew what o'clock it was by Isaac's dial, as they ordinarily called it; thus in his youngest years did that immense genius discover his sublime imagination, that since has filled, or rather comprehended the world.

The lad was not only very expert with his mechanical tools, but he was equally so with his pen. For he busied himself very much in drawing, which I suppose he learnt from his own inclination, and observation of nature. By inquiry, I was informed that one old Barley (as he was called) was his writing master, who lived where now is the Millstone alehouse, in

* Several of these dials are to be seen on the wall of the manor house at Wolsthorp.

Castle street; but they don't remember that he (Barley) had any knack in drawing. However, by this means sir Isaac furnished his whole room with pictures of his own making, which probably he copied from prints, as well as from life. They mention several of the kings' heads, Dr. Donne, and likewise his master Stokes. Under the picture of king Charles I. he wrote these verses, which I had from Mrs. Vincent by memory, who fancies he made them; if that be true, it is most probable he designed the print too, which is common to this day.

A secret art my soul requires to try,
If prayers can give me, what the wars deny,
Three crowns distinguished here in order do
Present their objects to my knowing view.
Earth's crown, thus at my feet, I can disdain,
Which heavy is, and, at the best, but vain.
But now a crown of thorns I gladly greet,
Sharp is this crown, but not so sharp as sweet:
The crown of glory that I yonder see
Is full of bliss and of eternity.

These pictures he made frames to himself, and coloured them over in a workmanlike manner.

Mrs. Vincent is a widow gentlewoman living here, aged 82. Her maiden name was Storey, sister to Dr. Storey, a physician of Buckminster near Colsterworth. Her mother, who was a handsome woman, was second wife to Mr. Clark, the apothecary where sir Isaac lodged; so that she lived with him in the same house all the time of his being at Grantham, which was about seven years. Her mother and sir Isaac's mother were intimately acquainted, which was the reason of his lodging at Mr. Clark's. She gave me much of the foregoing account. She says sir Isaac was always a sober, silent, thinking lad, and was never known scarce to play with the boys abroad, at their silly amusements; but would rather choose to be at home, even among the girls, and would frequently make little tables, cupboards, and other utensils for her and her play fellows, to set their babies and trinkets on. She mentions, likewise, a cart he made with four wheels, wherein he would sit, and by turning a windlass about, he could make it carry him around the house where he pleased. Sir Isaac and she being thus brought up together, 'tis said that he entertained a love for her; nor does she deny it: but her portion being not considerable, and he being a fellow of a college, it was incompatible with his fortunes to marry; perhaps his studies too. 'Tis certain he always had a kindness for her, visited her whenever in the country, in both her husbands' days, and gave her forty shillings, upon a time, whenever it was of service to her. She is a little woman; but we may with ease discern that she has been very handsome.

Mr. Clark tells me that the room where sir Isaac lodged, was his lodging room too when a lad, and that the whole wall was still full of the drawings he had made upon it with charcoal, and so remained till pulled down about sixteen years ago, as I said before. There were birds, beasts, men, ships, and mathematical schemes, and very well designed.

We must understand, all this while, that his mother had left Wolsthorp and lived with her second husband at North Witham. But upon his death, after she had three children by him, she returned to her own house, which likewise, it ought to be remembered, was rebuilt by him. She upon this was for saving expenses as much as she could, and recalled her son Isaac from school, intending to make him serviceable in managing of the farm and country business at Wolsthorp, and I doubt not but she thought it would turn more to his own account, than being a scholar. Accordingly we must suppose him attending to the tillage, grazing, and the like. And they tell us

that he frequently came on Saturdays to Grantham market, with corn and other commodities to sell, and to carry home what necessaries were proper to be bought at a market town for a family; but being young, his mother usually sent a trusty old servant along with him, to put him into the way of business. Their inn was at the Saracen's Head in Westgate, where, as soon as they had set up their horses, Isaac generally left the man to manage the marketings, and retired instantly to Mr. Clark's garret, where he used to lodge, near where lay a parcel of old books of Mr. Clark's, which he entertained himself with, whilst it was time to go home again; or else he would stop by the way, between home and Grantham, and lie under a hedge studying whilst the man went to town and did the business, and called upon him in his return. No doubt the man made remonstrances of this to his mother. Likewise, when at home, if his mother ordered him into the fields, to look after the sheep, the corn, or upon any other rural employment, it went on very heavily through his manage. His chief delight was to sit under a tree, with a book in his hands, or to busy himself with his knife in cutting wood for models of somewhat or other that struck his fancy: or he would get to a stream and make mill wheels.

DISCOVERY OF A PAINTING BY RAPHAEL.

REPORT has lately convulsed the cognoscenti, by affirming the discovery of twelve pictures of Titian, the Cesars, which, after having been laid aside as mere lumber, in the garret of an ancient mansion, were sold for less than twenty shillings to a country watchmaker, and by him for about 25*l.* to a London dealer. The dealer, however, demands as many hundreds. We have not seen these pictures, nor is the name of the present owner mentioned. We, therefore, can neither vouch for their authenticity, their merit, nor the accuracy of the history stated to the publick. Whether they be originals or copies we cannot tell. But as such discoveries really do occur from time to time, we deem it not improper to caution those who are in possession of old pictures, not to destroy them, without first taking the opinion of some competent judge on their worth. The following incident, which, on account of the wonderful changes attendant on the French revolution, we think very credible, may add weight to our caution.

A painter in Paris discovered, some months ago, in a tinker's shop, an oaken pannel about two feet high, and twenty inches wide, covered with dirt and smoke. Thinking that it might have been originally a picture, he inquired of the tinker what he would take for it. He replied that it had lain more than ten years in his shop, and that he thought of converting it into a table; but if the painter wished for it, he should have it for three livres. The painter paid the money and took it home. On cleaning it he discovered an inscription, with two tickets of printed paper, and at last could read very legibly the following lines:

"This portrait of the Holy Family of our Lord Jesus Christ was painted at Rome in 1514, by Raffaello Sanzio d'Urbino, for our glorious sovereign, the wife of our good king Francis I. by name, who afterwards presented it to the chancellor Duprat in 1516. In the same year the fellow portrait was painted by the same Raffaello for the cardinal de Julius de Medicis."

The printed tickets represent the arms of Duprat cut in wood, with the following Latin inscription:

"Ex supellectibus Ant. Duprat domini Nantralieti, cancel. Fran. Brittan. Mediol. et ordinis regis, regina conjux Francisci primi Francorum regis, istam tabulam SS. Familiæ Christi, à Raphaele Sanzio, pictore Romano depictam, Ant. Duprat cancellario, dedit, anno MDXVI."

"Hæc tabula facta, fuit à Raphaelè Sanzio. pro Reginâ Franc. primi uxore anno MDXIV. Patente D. Arthur a Gouffiero—Boissi, olim principis F. institutore altera tabula, ipsi similis, picta fuit ab eodem Raphaele pro de cardinal. Julio Medicis. Anno MDXVI."

The above resolves an important question: "Whether great masters copied their works?" They did copy them, it is true (but very seldom) at the instigation of some distinguished personage, and almost always with some difference. The above picture is in high preservation, and is evidently the original of the "Virgin asleep;" from which the one in the museum Napoleon, formerly belonging to the Medici, was copied by Raphael himself. The most striking difference between the two paintings is, that the nudity of the child is veiled in that painted for the queen, while in that painted for the cardinal the child is quite naked.

This painting was engraved in 1625 by M. de Poilly in a superiour style, and after inspecting the print, we find that the picture in question was the original, and not that of the museum. A good impression costs from forty to fifty livres; it is known to printsellers by the name of *La Vierge au Linge*.

The following anecdote is extracted from the Recollections of Felicia L***, by Madame Genlis.

"I HEAR from Lausanne, that Mr. Gibbon has been settled there for some time, and is extremely well received. He is, they tell me, grown so prodigiously fat, that he walks with great difficulty. Yet with this figure, and his strange face, Mr. Gibbon is infinitely gallant, and is failen in love with a beautiful woman, Madame de Crouzas. One day, finding himself with her *tête à tête* for the first time, and desirous of availing himself of so favourable a moment, he fell suddenly on his knees, and made a declaration of his flame in the most passionate terms. Madame de Crouzas replied in a manner sufficiently repulsive to discourage every temptation to renew the scene, and Mr. Gibbon appeared embarrassed; but he, nevertheless, retained his prostrate attitude; and notwithstanding Madame's repeated invitation to reseat himself on his chair, he was motionless and silent.—"But, sir," repeated Madame de Crouzas, "rise, I beseech you."—"Alas, Madame," at length answered this unfortunate lover, "*I am not able.*" In truth, the corpulency of his person totally impeded the possibility of his recovering his legs without assistance. Madame de Crouzas then rang the bell, and desired the servant to help Mr. Gibbon to rise."

MR. CURRAN, the Irish master of the rolls, was in company with an honourable baronet, in the course of a late session, who distinguished himself, upon one or two occasions, by speeches, whose excellence was not in proportion to their *length*. It was observed, that continued speaking made the voice husky and the mouth parched. "That may be," observed the baronet; "but for my part, I have spoken three hours together without getting at all thirsty." "But are you quite sure, sir Thomas," demanded the wit, "that you did not get *dry?*"

"THE theatre at Sydney appears to be in a very flourishing state," said a gentleman to John Kemble, speaking of the Botany-Bay theatricals, an account of which appeared in the papers a few months since. "Yes," replied the tragedian, "the performers ought to be all good; for they have been selected, and sent to that situation, by very excellent *judges!*"

A PUNSTER observing a *John Doe* running after an *author*, remarked that it was a new edition of the *Pursuits* of *Literature!*

POETRY.

A NOSEGAY.

A SIMILE FOR REVIEWERS.

From the Monthly Magazine.

By the late Rev. Laurence Sterne.

The following exquisite, and hitherto unpublished piece of humour, was written at a time when the Critical Review maintained a secondary rank in literature; but notwithstanding the present degraded and decrepit state of that journal, this piece deserves to be preserved for its own merits, and for the sake of its illustrious author. It will be agreed by every man of sense, honour, and learning, that the Critical Review of the present day is altogether beneath contempt; and its declining sale and credit, during many years past, render it probable that it may soon cease to exist. Charity forbids it, therefore, that so keen a satire should be considered as intended to apply to the publication at a time when it may, for aught I know, be writhing, perhaps, in the agonies of impending dissolution. SENEX.

YE overseers and reviewers
Of all the muses' sinks and sewers,
Who dwell on high,
Enthroned among your peers,
The garreteers,
That border on the sky;
Who hear the musick of the spheres:
You have such ears,
And live so high;
I thank you for your criticism,
Which you have ushered in
With a delightful witticism,
That tastes like rotten fruit preserved in gin.
And therefore marvel not that my two ballads,
Which are but like two sallads,
By no means suit,
Like your fruit,
With your palates.
I do admire your dealings,
To speak according to your feelings;
And do believe if you had withal,
You would drop honey;
And that you overflow with gall,
Because you do not overflow with money.
Hence all your spite
Against a poor conundrumite,
Whose only business is to watch
Where the conundrums lie,
And be upon the catch
As they go by;
To make a simile in no feature
Resembling the creature
That he has in his eye;
Just as a fisher shoots an owl,
Or a sea fowl,
To make the likeness of a fly;
Just as you look into the fire
For any likeness you desire.
Simile making
Is an undertaking,
In which the undertaker
Resembles a marriage contract maker—
A poor, industrious man,
Who means no ill,
But does the best he can
With a quill;—
In short, he does according to his skill:
If matters can be brought to bear
So as to tie the knot,
He does not care
Whether they are a happy pair or not.
And, as I said at first,
Nothing could make you all so keen
And curst,
But that which makes you all so lean—
Hunger and thirst.
So now and then a judge
Consigns a wretch
To master Ketch,
Having no grudge;
No reason clear can be assigned,
Only, like you, he has not dined.
So far from wishing your allowance shorter,
I wish for all your sakes,
That you may never want beefsteaks
And porter;
And for your merits
A dram of British spirits.
And so I leave you with a fable,
Designed without a sneer,
To exhilirate your table,
And give a relish to your beer.
I beg my compliments to all your ladies,
The reviewer-esses.
Hark!
And, if you please, take warning.
My fable is concerning
A cuckoo and a lark.
If I said a nightingale,
You would have cried,
(You could not fail)
That it was pride,
And nought beside,
Which made me think of such a tale.
Upon a tree as they were sitting,
They fell into a warm dispute,
Warmer than was fitting,
Which of them was the better flute.

After much prating,
And debating,
Not worth relating,
Things came to such a pass,
They both agree
To take an ass
For referee.
The ass was studying botany and grass
Under the tree.
What do you think was the decree?—
"Why," says the ass, "the question is not hard:"
And so he made an excellent award,
As you shall see.
"The lark," says he,
"Has got a wild fantastick pipe,
But no more musick than a snipe:
It gives one pain,
And turns one's brain;
One can't keep time to such a strain:
Whereas, the cuckoo's note
Is measured and composed with thought;
His method is distinct and clear,
And dwells
Like bells
Upon the ear,
Which is the sweetest musick one can hear.
I can distinguish, I'll lay a wager,
His manner and expression
From every forester and cager
Of the profession."
Thus ended the dispute;
The cuckoo was quite mute
With admiration;
The lark stood laughing at the brute,
Affecting so much penetration.
The ass was so intoxicated,
And shallow pated,
That ever since
He has got a fancy in his skull,
That he's a commission from his prince,
Dated when the moon's at full,
To summon every soul,
Every ass and ass's foal,
To try the quick and dull;
Trumpeting through the fields and streets,
Stopping and jading all he meets;
Pronouncing with an air
Of one pronouncing from the chair,
Here is a beauty! this is new!
And that's a blemish,
For which I have no relish!—
Just like the CRITICAL REVIEW!

EPIGRAM.

On seeing a Picture of Ugolino.

"THIS Ugolino? psha!" says Will,
"He's painted much too skinny."
"Prythee," replied his friend, "be still—
You find fault like a ninny:
Were *you* imprison'd three long days,
With nought your teeth between-o,
When on the fourth you go your ways,
I'll warrant—*You-go-lean-o!*"

EPIGRAM.

From the Latin of Naugerius.

A WOMAN once as it is sung,
Could speak so loud without a tongue,
That you could hear her full a mile hence:—
A greater wonder I can tell:
I knew a woman very well,
That had a tongue and yet *kept silence!*

As it is but seldom that we can present our readers with genuine and correct imitations of Oriental poetry, we give sir William Jones's version of an ode of Jami in the Persian form and measure.

How sweet the gale of morning breathes! Sweet news of my *delight* he brings;
News, that the rose will soon approach the tuneful bird of *night* he brings.
Soon will a thousand parted souls be led, his captives, through the sky.
Since tidings, which in every heart must ardent flames *excite*, he brings.
Late near my charmer's flowing robe he pass'd, and kiss'd the fragrant hem;
Thence, odour to the rose bud's veil, and jasmine's mantle *white*, he brings.
Painful is absence, and that pain to some base rival oft is owed;
Thou know'st, dear maid! when to thine ear false tales, contrived in *spite* he brings.
Why should I trace love's mazy path, since destiny my bliss forbids;
Black destiny! my lot is wo, to me no ray of *light* he brings.
In vain, a friend his mind disturbs, in vain a childish trouble gives,
When sage physician to the couch, of heart-sick love-lorn *wight*, he brings.
A roving stranger in thy town no guidance can sad Jami find,
Till this his name, and rambling lay to thine all-piercing *sight* he brings.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND ECONOMICAL INTELLIGENCE.

A SINGULAR case of success in applying the magnet, to extract a fragment of iron out of the human eye, has been recently transmitted to the Philosophical Magazine. It seems in the course of last summer, Charles Milsted, a blacksmith of Teuterden, received a particle of iron, about the size of a small pin's head, in the ball of his left eye, while he was striking the head of one hammer against another. Some weeks after this accident, a gentleman applied a magnet to the part injured, but could only draw out a mixture of powdered rust with the tears. This gave no relief, as the fragment of iron was yet in the eye. A surgeon endeavoured to take it out with the point of a lancet, but finding it firmly fixed very near the pupil, he concluded it was impossible to touch it with any instrument without extreme danger. The former gentlemen then sent again for the young man, and examining the eye with a very powerful magnifying glass, he could see a very small particle of black iron; but covered over with the thin coating of the eye. Being satisfied of the exact situation of the piece of iron, and the impediments to be surmounted, the eye-lids were held open, and he applied the north pole of a combined staple-magnet, possessing great power, at the distance of about the sixteenth part of an inch from the eye. Then he used a magnet of less power, but of more convenient construction, and continued to apply them both by turns, till he could at length perceive that the fragment had projected above the surface of the iris of the eye. Still there was a coating to cut its way through, before the magnet could draw it out. In fact, it seemed as firmly fixed as a thorn in the flesh, and was very different from what it might have been, had it been only loosely floating on the outer surface of the eye. During this operation, the young man frequently thought he felt the fragment rush out of his eye, before it really had done so; however, after using magnets of different degrees of power for ten or fifteen minutes, the particle of iron cut its way through the thin teguments of the eye, by the power of attraction, and was taken out by the magnet. By the assistance of glasses, it appeared of an imperfect octagon shape, armed with rough, jagged edges. The eye was, notwithstanding, free from pain, the moment it was out, though for some months before, the patient had suffered night and day without intermission. A small scar still remained on the eye, but it occasioned no pain. Knowing that the magnetick fluid will make its passage even through plates of glass, when any particle of iron is within its influence, the writer is surprised, a mean so familiar and natural as the present is not more frequently recurred to in such cases.

Account of the Magnetick Mountain of Cannay; by George Dempster, of Dunnichen, Esq.

Cannay is an island of ten or twelve miles in circumference, with an excellent harbour. In it is a hill of some height, called the Compass Hill, in which there is a little hole dug a foot or two in depth. A compass placed in this hole is instantly disturbed, and in a short time veers about to the eastward, till at last the north point settles itself in a due southerly direction, and remains there. At a very little distance from this hole, perhaps on the very edge of it, the needle recovers its usual position.

This singular circumstance was known when Martin wrote his account of the island, and is taken notice of by him. He, indeed, says the compass then settled at due east, which is also curious. What increases the singularity of this alteration in the needle, is a discovery lately made by Hector M'Neil, Esq. tacksman of the island. He mentioned the circumstance to us, and lord Bredalbane, sir Adam Ferguson, Mr. Isaac Hawkins Browne, and the rest of the company, went to examine the fact. The harbour on the north side is formed by a bold rock of basalt, which may be about half a mile below, and to the southward of the Compass Hill, of which this rock is a continuation. We rowed under this rock, and when the boat reached its centre, immediately under the rock, and almost touching it, the north point of our compass veered about, and settled at due south, and remained there. This experiment was frequently repeated with the same success; but this effect was confined also to a very small part of the rock, which seemed to us directly south from the hole on Compass Hill. At a little distance, on either side, the needle recovered its usual position. His

lordship then directed the boat to row with great quickness past the rock, when, upon our crossing the place which had before affected the needle, it was again affected during the passage, though very quick, and recovered soon after passing this point. We could hardly venture to assign any cause for these appearances, but by supposing something magnetical in the rock, extending the whole distance from the Compass Hill to the headland at the mouth of the harbour. If this should prove to be the case, we had no scruple in pronouncing this to be the largest loadstone as yet discovered in the world. A part of the rock was broken off at the very spot where this affection of the needle was observed, and was applied to the compass when removed from the rock; but it seemed to produce no effect upon the needle whatsoever: also, the compass was carried about the length of the boat from the rock, and it was also placed in the same line on the opposite side of the harbour, at about a quarter of a mile's distance; neither of these experiments produced any effect on the needle.

In this island there are many columnar appearances not unlike to Staffa; and several both straight and bent, and every way as regular, which seems also to have, like Staffa, escaped observation till very lately.

PRODUCE OF WHEAT.

The produce of a single grain of wheat, propagated in the garden of the Rev. Dr. Drake, rector of Amersham, Bucks, by Wm. Rebecca, gardener. "On the 1st day of August, I sowed, or rather set, a single grain of the red wheat; and in the latter end of September, when the plant had tillered, I took it up, and slipped or divided it into four sets or slips. Those four sets I planted, and they grew and tillered as well as the first. In the end of November, I took them up a second time, and made thirty-six plants or sets. These I again planted, which grew till March, in which month I, a third time, took up my plants, and divided them into two hundred and fifty-six plants, or sets. For the remaining part of the summer, till the month of August, they had nothing done to them, except hoeing the ground clean from weeds, till the corn was ripe. When it was gathered, I had the ears counted, or numbered, and they were three thousand five hundred and eleven; a great part of which proved as good grain as ever grew out of the earth. Many of the ears measured six inches in length, some were middling grain, and some very light and thin.—This was the reason I did not number the grains; but there was better than half a bushel of corn in the whole produce of this one grain of wheat in one year.—Query, would not this practice (spring-planting) be of great use where the crops miss by various accidents incidental to farming?"

Salt, moistened with as small a quantity of water as possible, is said to be an effectual remedy against the inflammation occasioned by the stings of bees and wasps. A wasp being swallowed, unperceived, by a person while drinking a glass of beer, stung him, with all its power, inside of his throat. This simple remedy, salt, effected his recovery, although his gullet was swelled, and his breathing was so strongly affected and interrupted from the violence of the pain, &c. as almost to suffocate him.

German Recipes.—For the destruction of caterpillars, ants, and other insects.—Take about two pounds weight of black soap, the same quantity of flowers of sulphur, two pounds weight of truffles [*ly coperdon tuber.* Linn.] and fifteen gallons of water. The whole must be well incorporated, by the aid of a gentle warmth. Insects on which this water is sprinkled die immediately.—Query, is this liquor effectual in destroying that noisome vermin the bug? If so, its composition cannot be made too extensively known; as we do not perceive that it is likely to damage bed furniture, &c.

To restore the lustre of glasses that are tarnished by age, or accident.—Strow on them powdered fullers' earth, carefully cleared from sand, &c. and rub them carefully with a linen cloth.

Mountain Ash-tree bearing Pears.

We have already given the history of several unique or remarkable trees. The following may certainly be added to them.

Report speaks of *a mountain ash-tree* in the forest near Bewdly *bearing pears.* This identical tree was described by alderman Pitts of Worcester, in the Philosophical Transactions, as long ago as the year 1678. It still flourishes in the forest of Wyre, near Bewdly, in full strength and beauty. A few years ago it was accurately and

scientifically described by Mr. Sowerby in his *English Botany*, under the name of the *Pyrus Domestica*. The plate 350, of that useful and elegant work, represents a branch of the tree bearing fruit and flowers, which was sent to the editor, as a specimen, by lord viscount Valentia, who then resided in the neighbourhood at his seat at Over Asley. This tree is, I believe, quite a rarity, and I think, likely to remain so, as every endeavour to propagate it has hitherto failed of success. The country people call it the "*Witty Pear Tree.*"

It is probable that the seeds or saplings of this tree, it being out of the common course of nature, may not have prolifick power sufficient to propagate their species. We would recommend a trial of the Chinese method of treating the *branches;** and if some of the most promising could be induced, by careful management, to take root, by that means, they would no doubt retain the same powers as they possessed while united to the parent tree. This appears to us to be the most probable mean of establishing this accidental specimen into a species.

Rapid Cultivation of Fruit Trees.

The Chinese, instead of raising their fruit trees from seeds or grafts, as is the practice in Europe, adopt the following method. They select a branch fit for the purpose, and round it they wind a rope made of straw besmeared with cow dung, until a ball is formed five or six times the diameter of the branch. Immediately under this ball they divide the bark down to the wood, for nearly two thirds of the circumference of the branch. A cocoa nut shell, or small pot, is hung over the ball, with a hole in its bottom, so small that water put therein will only fall in drops. By this, the rope is kept constantly moist, a circumstance necessary to the easy admission of the young roots. In about three weeks it is supposed that some of the roots have struck into the rope, when the remainder of the bark is cut, and the former incision carried deeper into the wood; it is repeated in three weeks more.—In about two months, the roots are seen intersecting each other on the surface of the ball, which is a sign that they are sufficiently advanced to admit of the separation of the branch from the tree, which is done by sawing at the incision, taking care not to cut off the rope, which by this time is rotten, and the branch is planted as a young tree.—It is probable that a month longer would be necessary for this operation in England, from the difference of climate; but by this means, when the branches are large, three or four years are sufficient to bring them to a state of full bearing. Timber trees, it is supposed, may be advantageously propagated in the same way.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

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* See the next article.

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The Monthly Anthology and Boston Review for April, 1809. Vol. VI. No. 4.

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Lectures on Natural Philosophy, by the Rev. John Ewing, D. D. late Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, as revised and prepared for publication, by Robert Patterson, Director of the Mint, and Professor of Mathematicks in the University of Pennsylvania.

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Identities ascertained; or, an Illustration of Mr. Ware's opinion respecting the Sameness of Infection in Venereal Gonorrhœa, and the Opthalmia of Egypt. 8vo. 2s. 6d.

The London Medical Review, from January to October 1808. Vol. I. 12s. 6d. in boards.

An Exposition of the Conduct of Mr. Cobbett; taken from the Satirist. 6d.

PROPOSED BRITISH PUBLICATIONS.

A new edition of Quintilian, after the manner of Rollin's Compendium, is printing at Oxford, in an octavo volume, and is nearly ready for publication.

The London booksellers having completed Holinshed's Chronicle, that of Hall is nearly ready, and Grafton is in the press.

Mr. Renouard, of Trinity College, Cambridge, has in the press a Treatise on Spherical Trigonometry.

Mr. Robertson Buchanan, who lately published an Essay on the Teeth of Wheels, with their application in practice to mill-work and other machinery, has a second essay nearly ready for publication, and three more prepared for the press. He will also speedily publish, a second edition of his Essay on Heating Buildings by Steam, which will contain a methodical collection of the facts that have since been ascertained, and have rendered the practice certain and commodious.

Mr. S. Ware, architect, will publish, in a few weeks, the first part of a Treatise on Arches, Bridges, Domes, Abutments, and Embankment Walls. The author professes to show a simple mode of describing geometrically the catenaria, and to deduce his theory principally from that line.

Mr. Johnes's translation of the Chronicles of Monstrelet; being a continuation of Froissart's Chronicles, will soon appear in four quarto volumes.

Speedily will be published, in 8vo. the Four Slaves of Cythera, a romance, in ten cantos, by the Rev. R. Bland.

A new and complete edition of Dr. Gill's Exposition of the Old and New Testament, in 9 vols. 4to. is in the press. It will be published in 18 monthly parts, the first of which is intended to appear the first of March.

The London Medical Dictionary, including under distinct heads every branch of medicine, viz. anatomy, physiology, and pathology, the practice of physick and surgery, therapeuticks, and materia medica, with whatever relates to medicine in natural philosophy, chymistry and natural history. Illustrated by a great number of plates. By B. Parr, M. D. F. R. S. of London and Edinburgh, and Secretary to the Exeter Hospital. 2 vol. 4to. 4l. 16s.

The Iron Mask, or the Adventures of a Father and a Son; a romance, by the Rev. J. P. Hunt, 3 vols. 12mo. 15s.

A society of physicians in London has been engaged for some time past in collecting materials for a new work, to be entitled, the "Annual Medical Register." They propose to comprise in one volume a complete account of the Medical Literature of the preceding year, together with a historical sketch of the dicoveries and improvements in Medicine and the collateral Sciences; a report of the general state of Health and Disease in the metropolis; and a brief detail of such miscellaneous occurrences within the same period as may be deemed worthy of record. The volume for 1808 is now in the press, and will be published with all possible expedition.

Mr. Saunders, Surgeon of the London Infirmary for curing Diseases of the Eye, and Demonstrator of Anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital, purposes, in the course of a few months, to publish a Tract on some select, practical points relating to Diseases of the Eye, and particularly on the nature of the Cateract in persons born blind, and the method which he has, for a long time, pursued with uniform success for the cure of such cases at the earliest periods, and even in infancy.

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